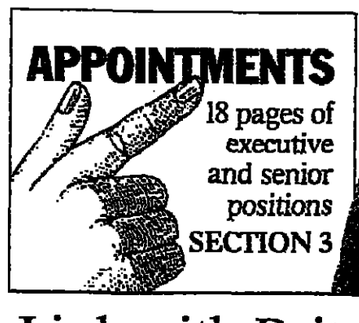
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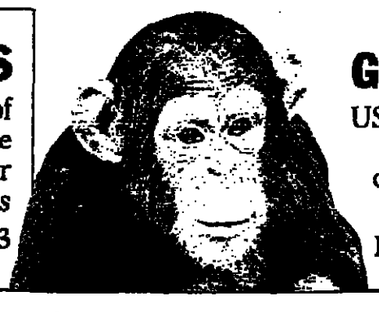
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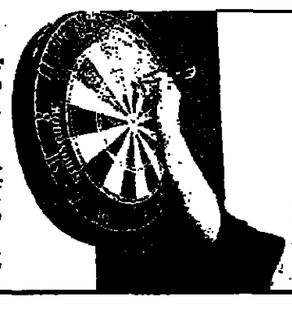
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Link with Britain 'stands above the rest; a model for the ties that should bind democracies'

Clinton to step up pressure for peace

By Martin Fletcher, U.S. editor, and Philip Webster, political editor

PRESIDENT CLINTON will fly to Belfast today to tell Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionists that they must be prepared to make concessions for peace in Northern Ireland.

Mr Clinton, the first serving President to visit the Province, will call on all parties to accept the agreement for reviving the deadlocked peace process hammered out by John Major and John Bruton on Tuesday.

The President repeatedly threw his backing behind the deal during his day in London yesterday and tonight he will hold separate meetings with Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein and David Trimble of the Ulster Unionists in an attempt to build on the momentum created by his visit.

He is understood to have promised Mr Major in private talks yesterday morning that he would keep up the pressure for a lasting settlement now that the two Prime Ministers have agreed a "twin-track" process to set up an international commission on disarming the terrorists while their Governments hold preliminary discussions with the political parties aimed at bringing them all to the negotiating table by February.

Standing on the steps of 10 Downing Street, Mr Clinton turned the screw on Mr Adams and the IRA, saying: "My message to the IRA is that the twin-track process has provided a mechanism for all the parties honourably now to bring their concerns to the table and be heard. In the end peace means peace and we are all going to have to support that."

He added: "I cannot say enough to the British people about how much I appreciate and admire the Prime Minister in taking this kind of risk for peace." The agreement was the best opportunity he had seen to resolve the impasse over disarming the IRA: "It should be embraced and I think it will be."



Mr Clinton with Mr Major in Downing Street yesterday

Mr Clinton flew into Britain with his wife, Hillary, only hours after Mr Major and Mr Bruton had set the seal on their deal, and he was swiftly at Downing Street for two hours of talks with Mr Major. He also paid courtesy calls on the Queen and Tony Blair before addressing both Houses of Paliament. There, he reaffirmed the "special relationship" between Britain and America, which he said, "stands alone, unbroken, above all the rest; a model for the ties that should bind all democracies".

Mr Major acknowledged yesterday that Mr Clinton's visit had played an important part in clinching the Ulster deal — it had "concentrated the mind" — and he went on to urge all political leaders in the Province to be ready "to take risks for peace".

He told the Commons that the tight timetable set for the start of all-party talks meant a serious commitment from all concerned. He said: "We are ready to make that commitment. But the British and Irish Governments cannot make peace in Northern Ireland. Our role in the process is to facilitate it. We have borne a great deal of the burden. We have been ready to take risks for peace. Now is the time for others to do so as well."

Mr Major also held out an olive branch to the Unionists, who had dismissed the deal as a fudge, promising to keep an open mind on their plan for an elected assembly to play a part in the search for peace.

Invitations to party leaders to take part in the preparatory talks would go out in the next few days, Mr Major said. "Now is the time for all parties and groups to make a sincere and constructive contribution — for the paramilitaries on both sides to give not merely qualified verbal assurances, but a real and tangible commitment to peace...for all political parties to enter the preparatory talks, not with rigid and irreconcilable postures, but with a will to make them work."

The former American Senator George Mitchell, who is to lead the international commission on disarming the paramilitaries, joined Mr Clinton in Downing Street yesterday and he said afterwards that he would move promptly to get his body organised. He is expected to be assisted by the former Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho and Lewis MacKenzie, the Canadian general who served as UN commander in the former Yugoslavia.

Last night, however, the differences between London and Dublin about how Mr Mitchell's body should operate remained, with Mr Major adamant that it would not consider the so-called Washington Three condition that requires the IRA to start giving up its guns before entering all-party talks.

He told MPs: "This is not a matter of dogma, but of practicality. No one has yet found an alternative way of providing confidence. If they mean peace, they don't need guns and semtex."

Nevertheless, Mr Mitchell, who suggested that he would talk directly to the IRA, did not rule out the possibility yesterday that he might make a recommendation on the condition, although Mr Clinton was careful not to take sides. "It is not for us to get into the details of the judgments that the countries and the parties will have to make," he said.

The President is expected to have a private meeting with Mr Adams during a reception at Queen's University tonight and to urge him to seize this opportunity to put the peace process back on track. He will deliver the same message to the more hardline Unionist leaders who also have deep reservations about the deal.

Tony Lake, Mr Clinton's national security adviser, telephoned both Mr Adams and Mr Trimble on Tuesday night to press them, with apparent success, not to reject the agreement out of hand. Mr Adams promised yesterday to approach it in a positive way in the hope it could provide a basis for peace.

The biggest security headache for the President's visit to Belfast today is not, however, likely to be the meeting with the party leaders. Rather, it will come when he switches on the Christmas tree lights outside the City Hall.

Thousands of people are expected to turn out to see him, and every one will be screened. The Belfast rock star Van Morrison and the American saxophonist Curtis Stigers will both play at the ceremony and Morrison's songs will include *Days Like This*, which has been used by the Northern Ireland Office to promote the peace process. Morrison played at the inauguration of the President, who joined him in a jam session. There were hopes that there might be a repeat performance tonight.

PETER NICHOLLS



Hillary Clinton with the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Their meeting followed the President's Downing Street talks

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Preps fail to win assisted places

Preparatory schools were unexpectedly excluded from plans to extend state subsidies to independent school children under the age of 11.

An extra £11 million was allocated to the assisted places programme in the Budget on Tuesday, but under-11s will qualify only in the junior departments of all-through independent schools, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced.....Page 6

Britain 'isolated' on key EU issues

Britain is set for conflict with its European partners at next year's follow-up conference on the Maastricht treaty, a paper by a European Union "reflection group" indicates.

The leaked document, published in Germany yesterday, says that Britain is isolated on majority voting, the powers of the European Parliament and foreign policy.....Page 16

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USS Churchill relaunches the special relationship

From Tom Rhodes in Washington and Emma Wilkins

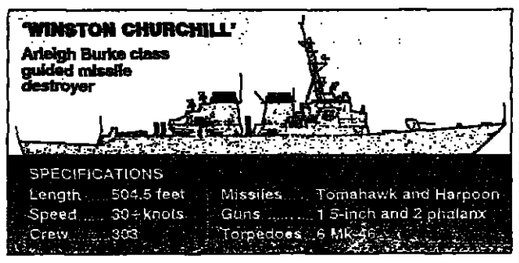
WINSTON CHURCHILL became only the second Englishman to grace the hull of an American ship yesterday when President Clinton announced that the wartime leader would be immortalised on the US Navy's latest warship, an honour previously accorded King Alfred in 1775.

In a symbolic signal of rapprochement after months of fragile Anglo-American relations, Mr Clinton told the both Houses of Parliament that the vessel, an Arleigh Burke class guided-missile destroyer, would become one of the most powerful in service.

"I am pleased to announce here, the home of British freedom, that the United States will name one of the newest and most powerful of its surface ships, a guided-missile destroyer, the *United States Ship Winston Churchill*," he said.

"When the ship slides down the ways in the final year of this century, its name will ride the seas as a reminder for the coming century of an indomitable man who shaped our age, who stood always for freedom, who showed anew the glorious strength of the human spirit."

Construction of the new vessel, hull number DDG-81, will begin in the spring of 1997 and *Winston Churchill* will join the American fleet in 2000. As the 31st of 32 such vessels authorised by Congress, the multi-mission ship will become part of a revolutionary fleet equipped with the latest technology and designed to operate both independently as an "offensive platform" and to support aircraft carrier and amphibious operations.



Its combination of Aegis, the anti-submarine warfare system, Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles, 5 inch gun and two 20mm Phalanx guns as well as helicopter hangars and six MK-46 torpedoes make the Burke class among the most advanced destroyers in the world.

While Britain maintains a ship-naming committee at the Admiralty, responsibility for the naming of US naval vessels falls on the shoulders of the Navy Secretary, now John Dalton, in consultation with the Chief of Naval Operations.

It seemed certain yesterday, however, that the personal hand of Mr Clinton had played heavily in the department's decision to choose the wartime Prime Minister. Privately, officials said the President wished to make a specific gesture during his visit to Britain. "The President wanted to release this information himself in front of the British Parliament," said one Pentagon official, "It was kept a very close secret before the visit."

Naval historians in Washington said yesterday that the Alfred, an armed merchantman, was the last vessel bearing an English name when commissioned by the Continental Navy in December 1775.

The Royal Navy uses the Ships Names and Badges Committee to decide on names for ships and submarines. In America, the navy tends to name ships after famous people. The *USS Ronald Reagan* is due to go into service in 2002.

Home loan cuts raise City hopes of lower base rate

By Nicholas Wood and Janet Bush

MORTGAGE rates fell last night in anticipation of a pre-Christmas interest rate cut after Kenneth Clarke's cautious Budget.

The Halifax, the country's biggest building society, set the ball rolling by trimming 0.25 per cent off its variable rate from 7.99% to 7.74%. Abbey National followed suit with a a 0.2 per cent reduction and Northern Rock and Britannia also announced cuts. Other lenders said they were reviewing their position.

The Halifax move reduced the monthy payments on a £50,000 repayment mortgage by £7.37 and on a £100,000 loan by £15.67.

The building societies' move coincided with a call by the Confederation of British Industry for an immediate 0.5 cut in base rates from 6.75 per cent to 6.25 per cent.

The financial markets were gleeful at the prospect of rate cuts. The FTSE 100 closed at a record high of 3,655.5 and government bonds also marched higher.

The mortgage rate cuts highlighted hopes in the City that the tight Budget on Tueday had left the door open to lower base rates. The Chancellor next meets the Governor of the Bank of England on December 13 and many economists believe that a rate cut could be announced then. Mr Clarke emphasised in interviews and briefings yesterday his determination to cut public sector borrowing — a hint that a rate cut is in his sights.

But he was scathing about his critics on the Tory backbenches and in the press, saying that MPs were "mad" if they thought he should take risks with the public sector borrowing requirement. Supposedly Conservative newspapers had harboured "unreal expectations" about the Budget and had wrongly imagined he was a "cut and run *Chancellor" happy to bribe* the electorate, he said.

The public would have seen through such a strategy, Mr Clarke told reporters at the Treasury.

However, Mr Clarke did say that he would cut taxes further in next year's Budget if it was sensible to do so.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies disputed the Government's claim that the Budget left the average British family £9 better off. The real figure, the IFS said, is £2.20. The lowest 20 per cent of earners had been left worse off by the Budget measures while the top 10 per cent of earners were £7.30 a week better off.

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Sinn Fein reaffirms 'invested interest' in achieving negotiated peace settlement

Ulster parties soften initial criticism

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland Correspondent

UNIONISTS and Sinn Fein gave wary responses to the Anglo-Irish communiqué.

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, initially said the agreement was an objectionable fudge, although he later welcomed the Anglo-Irish pledge to examine his proposal for an elected assembly in Northern Ireland.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, also said the communiqué was a fudge, and called on Britain to drop its demand for the IRA to decommission some arms before all-party talks. However, he said Sinn Fein would examine the proposals in a positive light.

Mr Trimble's first response was to accuse Britain of bowing to pressure from Washington. He told BBC radio: "We had all this rushing about and a press conference so that John Major could meet Bill Clinton and say: 'What a good boy I am. I have done what you told me'. Isn't that rather a shameful position for a British Prime Minister."

Later, however, he took heart when Mr Major told the Commons that the IRA would have to decommission some arms before all-party talks. Mr Trimble said his party would continue to talk to the Government about issues such as his plans for an elected assembly.

Mr Adams accused Britain of subverting the peace process and said that the twin-track process would work only if Britain dropped its demand for the IRA to decommission its arms. He added, however: "Whether or not [the communiqué] has the potential to move us all forward will have to be seen. But Sinn Fein have a deeply invested interest in bringing a negotiated peace settlement."

Paul Bew, page 20
Leading article and Letters, page 21

MARTIN BEDDALL



President Clinton addressing both Houses of Parliament yesterday, flanked by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker

How the logjam was broken this week

AFTER days of frantic telephone diplomacy John Major and John Bruton suddenly announced an agreement on Budget Day that will allow the next stage of the Northern Ireland peace process to get under way. Philip Webster explains how the logjam was broken and looks at the prospects for further progress.

Question: What is the twin-track process?

Answer: It is the plan, due to have been launched at the aborted Chequers summit in September, to allow preliminary talks with all the main parties and the two Governments to proceed, while an international body looks at arms decommissioning.

Q: What is Washington Three?

A: It is the requirement set out by Sir Patrick Mayhew in Washington that the IRA must start giving up weapons before Sinn Fein is allowed into substantive all-party talks.

Q: What went wrong in September?

A: Dublin pulled out after miscalculating Britain's position on Washington Three. John Bruton mistakenly believed that London would drop the requirement because it was excluded from the proposed communiqué.

Q: Does London still stand firm on Washington Three?

A: Yes, and Mr Major reiterated it several times yesterday. But Dublin does not, as John Bruton made plain on Tuesday night. John Hume, the SDLP leader, and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, also back Sinn Fein's opposition to it. Britain has said it will look at alternative "confidence-building" measures, but it cannot see any at the moment.

Q: So how could both sides sign the communiqué?

A: They agreed to differ. London says the remit in Paragraph Seven is to identify and advise on a decommissioning method, and to report on whether there is a commitment by the IRA to work for that aim. Thus, it says, Washington Three is excluded. Mr Bruton points to Paragraph Five, which speaks of the international body providing an "independent assessment" of decommissioning.

Q: So what has changed since September?

A: Not a lot. London has given a firm target date for the start of all-party talks: February. Previously it was an aspiration. The international body, to be chaired by the former US Senator George Mitchell, will now not "oversee" the decommissioning of arms. Instead it will advise on a suitable method. London has accepted that Sinn Fein can raise what it likes with the commission.

The preliminary talks process has been widened to allow the Unionists to talk about their plan for an elected assembly and Sinn Fein about other confidence-building measures. It is here that they might be asked to produce other evidence of their good faith, such as halting punishment beatings.

Q: Why a deal now?

A: Because President Clinton was about to arrive. In the summer he said he did not want to go to Belfast just to switch on the Christmas tree. Dublin was desperate to get an agreement before he arrived to enable him to continue the backstairs pressure on Sinn Fein. Sinn Fein's surprisingly favourable response late on Tuesday and early yesterday spoke volumes.

Q: Does Mr Clinton back Washington Three?

A: In private, possibly. Publicly to ally himself with it would be to take London's side.

Q: Will the Unionists boycott the preparatory talks?

A: No. They will talk to the two Governments about their assembly proposals. But they will not sit down with Sinn Fein.

Q: Will the February target be met?

A: Unlikely. Only a massive change of attitudes on all sides would allow round-table talks to get under way by then.

Straight man steals the pantomime show

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Nearly all the Williams were there. Waiting for President Bill in the Royal Gallery of the House of Peers were four other famous Williams. William I, a gilded statue, stood at the door. In oils, the portraits of the Williams II, III and IV peered dispassionately down from the walls at this presidential Willie-come-lately to the hall of fame. The boy who will one day (God willing) be King William V, being at Eton, was unable to attend.

Presidents and Kings have their paths smoothed before them. Mr Clinton breezed in to the sound of trumpets, found a crowd assembled for his address, gave it, and breezed out again. Sketch-writers, however, had been waiting an hour.

We amused ourselves trying to spot which cameramen were in fact secret service agents. My *Guardian* colleague, Simon Hoggart, was convinced that holes had been cut in the eyes of William IV, while I am equally sure I saw the statue of King Alfred move.

Sketchwriters think alike. Hoggart and I looked around at the chandeliers, gilt, flock wallpaper and fevered decor of the Royal Gallery. We pulled out our notebooks. *The Guardian* sketchwriter wrote "*Indian restaurant*"; your own wrote "*Louisiana brothel*". Mr Clinton will be spared the former on his visit here, and will surely never have seen the latter.

Before the President came the dignified part of the British constitution, Black Rod, in silk and lace, with billiard cue. Then came the even more dignified part of the constitution, the Baroness Thatcher. In hot pursuit came the undignified part of the constitution, George Foulkes (Lab, Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley); and, moments later, the efficient part of the constitution, House Leader Tony Newton.

Also present was the invented part of the constitution, Deputy Prime Minister Michael Heseltine. Tony Blair, looking tense, arrived early, and waited.

Even the photographers were wearing ties. One of them straightened his as the pantomime part of the constitution, the Lord Chancellor and Madam Speaker, processed forward in funereal tights and gilded brocade, knocking 'em cold in black and gold.

And we were ready. A fanfare of what sounded like antique cornets rent the air, the noise being similar to that of a New York traffic jam. Maybe this was to help Mr Clinton feel at home. He rose to speak.

The President spoke well. Surrounded by all the ridiculous flim-flam of invented British antiquity, Lord Chancellor in ludicrous fancy dress, the backdrop of unspeakable Victoriana whose excesses America escaped, Mr Clinton appeared as one from a quieter and deeper-rooted tradition.

In plain grey suit, single-breasted, he spoke calmly, in tones more thoughtful and less showy than our British appetite for political theatre expects. It was a beautifully crafted speech: relaxed, considered, delivered with poise. I felt ashamed to reflect that the US President was the least vulgar thing in the room. America was restrained, understated; Britain, as ever, pantomime.

Madam Speaker thanked him. The three ships, she said, which had taken the early settlers to America, had summed up, in their names, every settler's hopes: "*Godspeed, Discovery* and the *Susan Constant*." Susan must have been quite a girl.

Madam Speaker also quoted Thomas Jefferson, revealing that he was her hero. She did not mention that he insisted on sleeping with his slaves. As Miss Boothroyd and her retinue departed, her train-bearer looked distinctly nervous.





Mitchell: reputation for being partisan

Mildness conceals a ferocity

THE British Government should be wary of George Mitchell, the American who will chair the new independent body that must determine whether the IRA and other paramilitary groups are genuinely committed to disarming and how that might be achieved.

Mr Mitchell is of Irish Catholic stock (Martin Fletcher writes). He encouraged President Clinton to give Gerry Adams a US visa in January last year despite London's vehement objections. And beneath his mild, self-effacing manner the former Democratic leader of the US Senate is also ferociously partisan: members of President Bush's Republican administration claim he did all in his power to frustrate their agenda.

MAN IN THE NEWS

Mr Mitchell, 62, the son of a janitor of Irish descent and a Lebanese-born factory worker, helped to manage the 1972 presidential campaign of Edmund Muskie, the Maine senator, who when he was appointed US Secretary of State in 1980, named Mr Mitchell to fill his Senate seat.

Two things propelled Mr Mitchell into the Senate leadership in 1989. He had helped his party to regain control of the Senate in 1986, and the following year he had refused to be browbeaten by Oliver North during the Iran-Contra hearings. Along the way he divorced his wife of 28 years in 1987. He is now married to Heather MacLachlan, 25 years his junior, who runs a sports marketing firm.

Adviser plays decisive role behind scenes

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

AS AIR FORCE ONE took off from Washington on Tuesday night President Clinton presented a bottle of champagne to Tony Lake, his National Security Adviser, to thank him for his role in promoting the breakthrough in the peace process the British and Irish Prime Ministers had just announced at Downing Street.

The President was thrilled by the 11th-hour development that ensured the best possible start to his visit to Britain and Ireland — a visit designed at least partly to woo the substantial Irish-American vote before next year's presidential election. Mr Lake and other White House aides had worked intensely behind the scenes to bring it about, and had finally succeeded.

The administration publicly played down its role in deference to the sensibilities of the British and Irish governments. Mr Clinton using his appearances yesterday to lavish praise on John Major and John Bruton. Mr Major conceded only that the President's imminent visit had "concentrated the mind". But America, with its President having made Northern Ireland one of his foreign policy priorities, was a far more important player than that.

For the past two months the White House has been privately pushing, cajoling and counselling all parties, trying to line them up behind some modified form of Britain's twin-track proposals. Within minutes of Tuesday night's Downing Street announcement Mr Lake telephoned Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, urging them not to reject the agreement out of hand.

Mr Lake was said at times to have been exasperated by Britain's intransigence over the decommissioning of IRA weapons. However, British sources suggested the US had put particular pressure on Sinn Fein, arguing that Mr Adams had reneged on his promise seriously to discuss decommissioning in return for Mr Clinton letting him raise funds in America.

Mr Adams has visited the White House three times since September and one senior US official acknowledged the White House had gone to considerable lengths to persuade Sinn Fein that twin-track was a reasonable compromise not some secret trap.

All the key players — nationalist and unionist — were invited to White House meetings with Vice-President Gore or Mr Lake this autumn. Mr Lake and Nancy Soderberg, his Irish affairs expert, spent a week in Britain and Ireland late last month trying to break the deadlock over decommissioning. There were countless transatlantic telephone calls, Mr Clinton speaking directly with Mr Bruton last Thursday and Mr Lake with Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, last Saturday.

One senior administration official said the US had been "supportive, encouraging, offering ideas that could be helpful, offering to help provide feedback to the various parties on what we thought was a reasonable proposal". The US had helped to "stimulate creative thinking".

America's involvement is now more important than ever. Mr Clinton has won Sinn Fein's trust. He must now use that trust to persuade Sinn Fein to endorse the twin-track agreement.

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Yawning gap in American President's charisma gives security guards an easy day

Monumental motorcade underwhelms Londoners

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND JAMES LANDALE

YOU can tell when the eagle has landed. A motorcade the length of a train zips through the bleary traffic and nobody takes a blind bit of notice, except to swear at the hold-ups.

It takes charisma in spades to draw Londoners to the crush barriers to gawp at a foreign dignitary. Pope John Paul II and Mikhail Gorbachev were the last visitors with it. The 42nd President of the United States, who is known to his security men as "Eagle", hasn't got it, really. The crowds watching his noisy progress yesterday were a touch on the thin side.

Air Force One deposited Bill and Hillary at 7.07am at the far side of Heathrow where paying passengers never go. A helicopter immediately whisked them to the official residence of Admiral William J. Crowe, the US Ambassador, in Regent's Park, where they had a little under an hour to freshen up before a day of talks with John Major, a courtesy call on the Queen, a meeting with Tony Blair, and a reception and dinner at Downing Street.

But first the Clintons boarded their motorcade of 17 vehicles, including a personal ambulance and a security vehicle bristling with domes and aerials. The Clintons rode in the second car, a vast black Cadillac with the flags of the US and of the President fluttering at the wings. If they are so paranoid about the President's security, why do they advertise him so blatantly?

Their first stop was at Westminster Abbey shortly before 9am, where they were met by John and Norma Major and laid a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

Shaved, breakfasted and clearly recovered from any lingering jet lag, the President decided to attempt a walkabout. It was drizzling a bit, which was not a good omen.

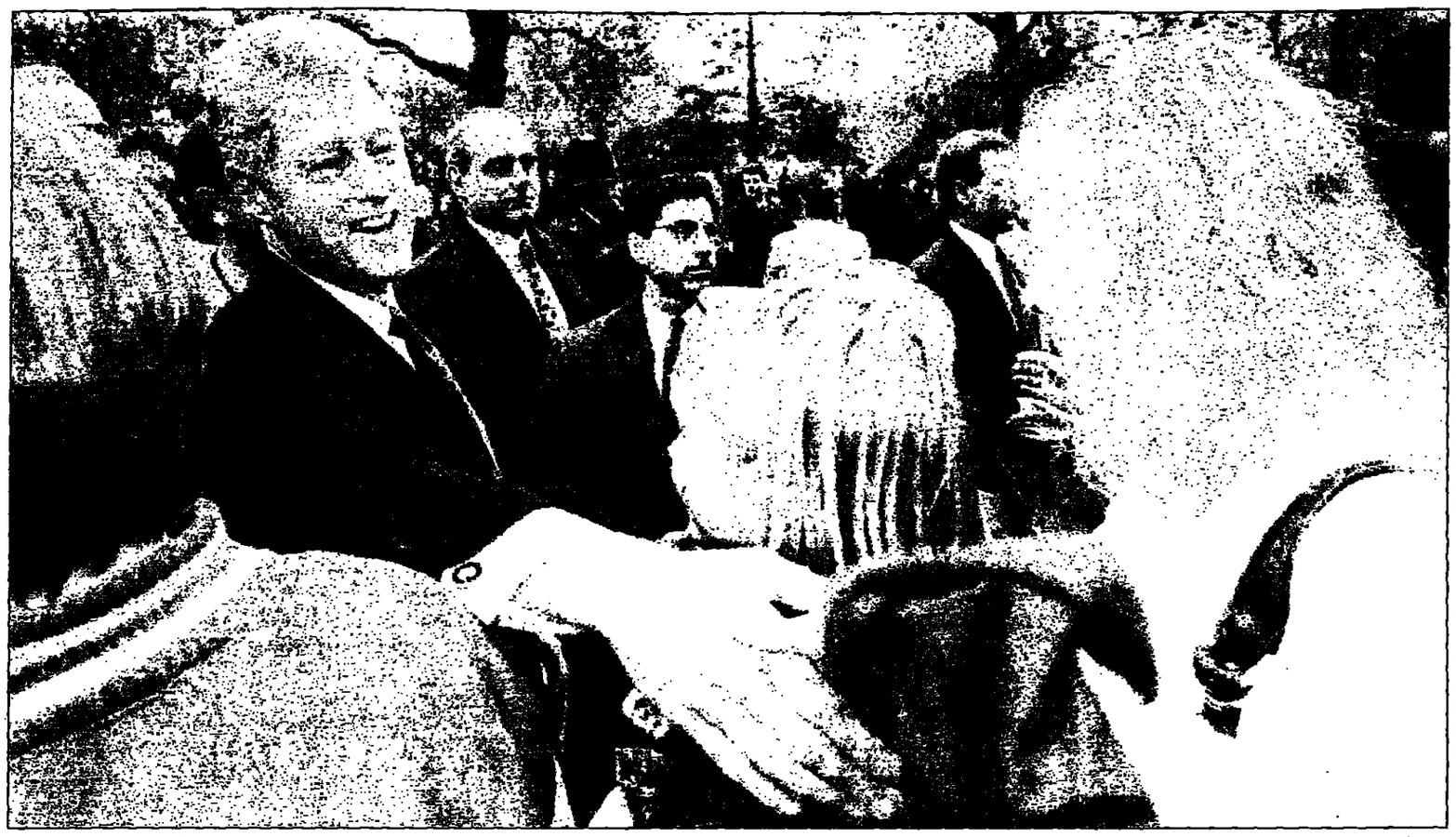
Bill, Hillary and John struck off across the street in the direction of Central Hall, surrounded by at least 70 security men and a huge pack of journalists. It was rather like the picture of George Washington surrounded by a phalanx of protection against King George's Redcoats.

Mr Clinton waved a lot, signed an occasional autograph for startled passers-by, and talked to a pair of tourists, who by some miraculous coincidence turned out to be Bob Mulholland and Kelly Candale, Democratic Party activists from California. Their banner, "We love you, Clinton", may have given the game away. "Hi," the President said, several times.

He then found himself confronting a television camera and reporter, and instantly steeled himself for a searching question on Northern Ireland. It came at once. "What, Mr President, is your favourite Beatles number?" The President did not answer, and his fixed smile remained impeccably untroubled. Mr Major, however, could not contain a bit of a snigger.

The moment was saved by some cheery building workers digging an enormous hole for the Jubilee Line extention. "Hi, Bill," they shouted. At this undemanding approach, Mr Clinton went up and shook their hands.

"He's got a good firm handshake," Paul Wydenbach, 28, reported afterwards. "Obviously he's no tart."



President Clinton during his walkabout in the drizzle at Westminster, where he met children from the American School in St John's Wood, north London



President Clinton will perform with the Belfast-born singer Van Morrison, above, today after switching on the city's Christmas lights (David Sinclair writes). Like the President, Morrison is an occasional saxophonist. He is also gruff, cagey, notoriously irascible and one of the most distinctive singers the United Kingdom has produced. He celebrated his 50th birthday this year with a top-five album, *Days Like This*. His new album, *How Long Has This Been Going On?*, is released on Monday.



Mrs Clinton and Mrs Major at Westminster Abbey

Determined First Lady refuses to take second billing to Bill

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

HILLARY CLINTON swept into a rain-drenched London yesterday, bringing with her an army of aides, diplomats, journalists and her husband, the President of the United States.

The First Lady had hardly got off Air Force One before she was making clear that she was here in her own right and would not make do with a little smalltalk with the wives and being a clothes horse.

Dressed in steely royal blue, with her hair pulled back in a chic bun, she glared as a reporter asked her who her designer was. She looked even more horrified when someone asked her why she had not bought her cat Socks to meet Humphrey, his Downing Street equivalent. She finally smiled when she has handed a vast bunch of flowers.

Bill and Hillary spent a quick hour with Norma and John touring Westminster Abbey before the foursome broke up. Last time Mrs Clinton came to Britain she was excluded from the bilateral summit at Chequers. This time she had come to do some serious networking.

Everyone had been warned that she loathes meeting "salon women". Thus a list of 20 of Britain's most eminent females had been chosen to meet her. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, was a guest of honour and others included Baroness Blackstone, the Labour peer, Sue MacGregor, presenter of *Today* on Radio 4, Judith Newman, a literature professor from Newcastle University, Sue Slipman, director of the National Training and Enterprise Council, and Ruth Evans, the director of the National Consumer Council.

The women gathered round a table in the state dining room of the American Ambassador's residence in Regent's Park and Mrs Clinton told them: "It would be of great interest to me to trade thoughts or ideas you might have about common interests, particularly among women.

"I try to do this in every country I visit and I always come away thinking we have so much more in common than the things which separate us."

She then picked her husband up from 10 Downing Street and they headed to the Houses of Parliament for his address. Later the couple went for tea with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.



PC Mullin: invitation to meet the President

In the evening Mrs Clinton attended the dinner at Downing Street and invited her long-lost cousin David Howell, a pensioner from Exeter, for cocktails. Also there was PC Laurie Mullin, who had shown Mr and Mrs Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, around the Commons six years ago.

PC Mullin, 58, of Barking, east London, said the invitation to attend the reception at the American Ambassador's residence came out of the blue. "In 1985 I took a family from Arkansas round the Commons. They happened to be friends of the Clintons and so they gave him my name when he came over here some years before he went to the White House."

☐ As first ladies their styles could not be more different. Norma Major prefers to take the back seat, staying in the country and writing biographies of opera singers. Hillary Clinton is a potent political force in her own right. On sartorial matters, however, both women are as one (Julia Llewellyn Smith writes).

Yesterday, they showed an enthusiastic appreciation of the frumpy "geek chic" which the fashion world attempted to foist upon the public at the last collections.

Mrs Clinton, obviously wary of the British winter, had chosen to wrap herself in what looked like an old car blanket, her chest snugly protected by a violet polo neck. Mrs Major sported a cream silk, double-breasted jacket and charcoal skirt.

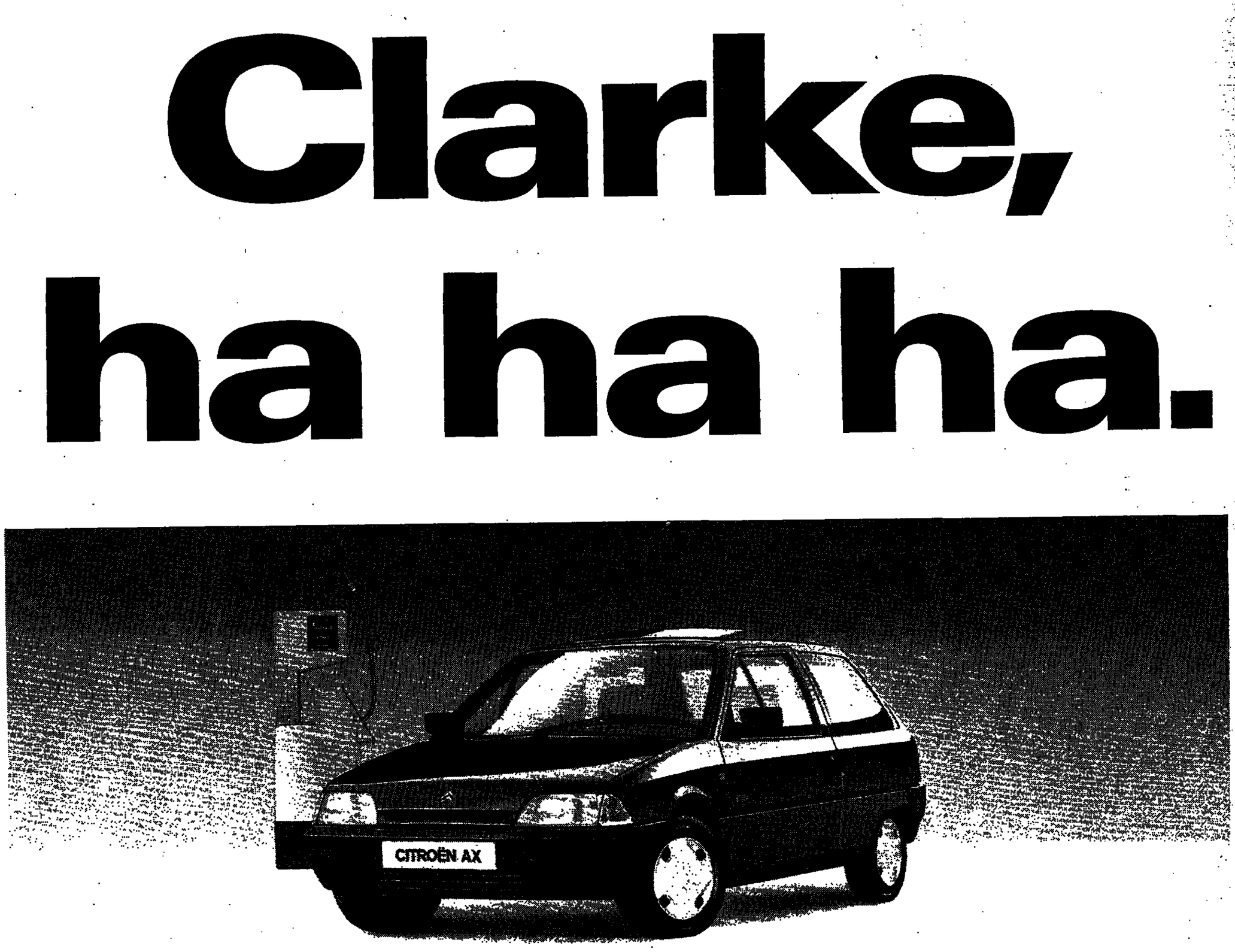
Both women's skirts fell exactly on the knee, an ultra-fashionable length. Black sheer tights and court shoes completed the ensembles.

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Judge bans further publicity over boy in kidnap disputes

Father who abducted his son wins custody fight

BY RICHARD DUCE

OLIVER MALKIN, the 14-year-old boy at the centre of an acrimonious custody battle that has seen him kidnapped at least three times, will be allowed to stay with his father, a judge ruled yesterday.

Peter Malkin, who once abducted his son and took him to Egypt, was granted custody because Oliver's natural mother, Elisa Pridmore, 38, recently died from cancer. Oliver has since been living with her relatives. He will remain a ward of court.

After a two-hour closed hearing at the High Court in London yesterday the judge called reporters into the court to prohibit the publication or soliciting of information about the case.

Mr Justice Kirkwood said: "Following upon the untimely and tragic death of Oliver's mother on the 12th of October the decision has been taken that Oliver will make his home with his father. That decision accords with Oliver's own wishes. It also accords with advice the court has received as to how Oliver's welfare may best be served.

"Though living with his father, Oliver will remain in close contact, by regular visits, with members of his late mother's family. They are dear to him.

"These are gravely distressing days for Oliver as he mourns his mother and faces up to making major adjustments in every aspect of his life. Recent publicity has been particularly upsetting for him. Any further publicity about these matters beyond this short statement would be disastrous. Both publication and the soliciting of information by anyone about this case are prohibited by statute and by order of this court."

Mr Malkin, 55, runs a country club near Canterbury. His refusal to accept that his former wife should have custody of Oliver began after they divorced in 1989. She remarried and moved to France. Oliver was once found hidden in the attic of Mr Malkin's home after he had been missing for 19 months. Mr Malkin took his son again after he stepped off a bus in France.

The pair were on the run for two months before they were traced to Egypt in 1993. Mr Malkin later served eight months of an 18-month jail sentence for contempt of court. He said recently that he had made his peace with his ex-wife before she died during an emotional meeting in Tunbridge Wells. Oliver had come over from France with his mother and stepfather and Mr Malkin was joined by his girlfriend Kate Donnelly.

"We all held hands. There were a lot of tears all round as well as kind thoughts and words," Mr Malkin said at the time. "Oliver knew his mum was going to die. But he was so happy to see his father and mother make it up before she died. I'd have given anything to have been reunited with Oliver under different circumstances. This way there are no winners. Everyone will have lost something."

He made no comment after the hearing yesterday.

JAMES MORGAN



Peter Malkin leaving the High Court yesterday after gaining custody of Oliver

Let coma patient die with dignity, doctor asks court

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A WOMAN who suffered brain damage after a drug overdose almost four years ago should be allowed to die "peacefully and with dignity", her doctor told a court yesterday. Dr Iain O'Brien said that Janet Johnstone, 52, had irreparable brain damage and no hope of recovery.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh is hearing an application by Law NHS Trust Hospital, Strathclyde, backed by Mrs Johnstone's family, for permission to remove the feeding tube keeping her alive.

The judge, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, was told that Mrs Johnstone was taken to hospital on January 14, 1992, after taking a cocktail of drugs. She told the doctor on duty that "she had been unhappy for a long time and was very nervous".

She had a seizure lasting about ten minutes and suffered another before she was transferred to another hospital for further treatment. Dr O'Brien said that by the time she returned to Law Hospital she had suffered brain damage. Since then, she had been kept alive with intensive nursing. She could breathe unaided, but was fed through a tube in her nose.

Dr O'Brien, a neurologist, said she was in a persistent vegetative state. "In view of the absence of any improvement in her level of consciousness, it is clear that the prognosis is hopeless."

In March 1993 he spoke to Mrs Johnstone's husband Peter and daughter Linda about the possibility of allowing her to die. The daughter reluctantly accepted the advice, but Mr Johnstone said he hoped his wife would recover. Finally in February 1994 the relatives said they were now in favour of removing the feeding tube.

Dr Richard Metcalfe, a consultant neurologist at Glasgow Southern General Hospital, who was called in for a second opinion, said he knew of no case where there had been an improvement in a patient who had been in such a state for so long. The case continues today.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



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Footballer fined for possessing heroin

A PROFESSIONAL footballer arrested in an undercover police operation was fined £500 yesterday for possessing heroin. Anthony Finnigan, who plays for third division Fulham, was sitting in the back of what he later learnt was an unmarked police car when officers arrested him.

One kilogram of heroin worth £100,000 was found in the vehicle. A drugs courier, Susan Ellis, 27, who was also there, was later jailed for 4½ years for possession with intent to supply. Finnigan was acquitted of the charge but admitted possessing 0.35 grams of the drug.

Ian Darling, for the prosecution, told Southwark Crown Court during the player's trial earlier this month that Finnigan told police the drug was for personal use. The court heard that Finnigan was arrested as he allegedly joined Ellis in trying to sell the one-kilogram consignment to an officer posing as a dealer.

Outside court, Finnigan, 33, of Tulse Hill, south London, said he would be explaining the incident to the Football Association.

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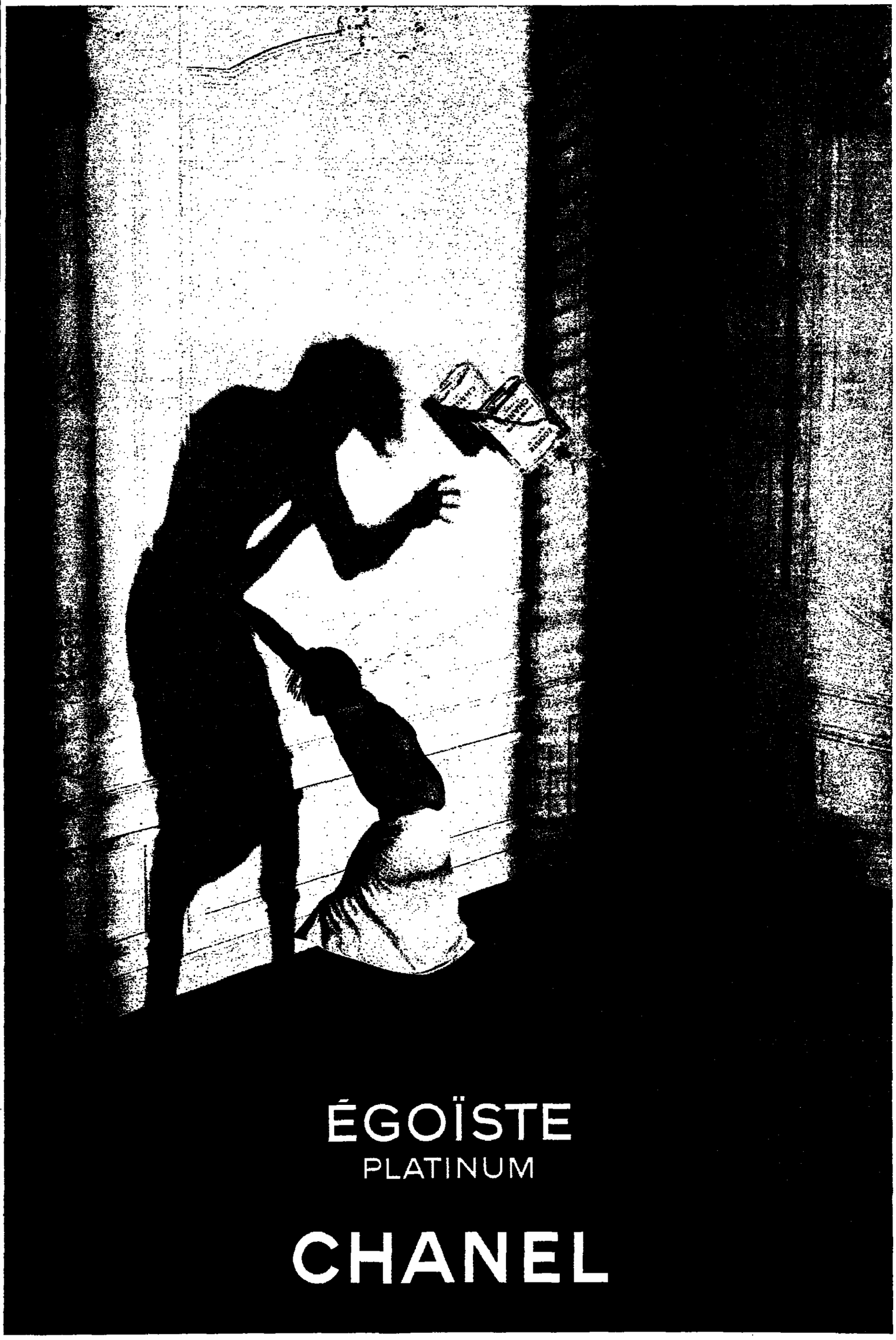


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Assisted places subsidy excludes prep schools

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

PREPARATORY schools were unexpectedly excluded from plans announced yesterday to extend state subsidies to independent school children under the age of 11.

John Major has promised to double the 30,000 places in the Assisted Places Scheme for children from low-income families. An extra £11 million was allocated to the programme in Tuesday's Budget.

The existing places, which are restricted to 11-year-olds and above at some 300 independent schools, have never been fully taken up. Preparatory schools had been expected to join the scheme to ensure that the shortfall did not continue.

However, under-11s will qualify only in the junior departments of all-through independent schools, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, announced. She said she expected most new places to be provided — as at present — for 11-year-olds. Some 250 independent schools have been invited to join the scheme, including specialist music and ballet schools.

The decision enraged preparatory school heads, who will discuss their response at a meeting today. John Morris, the general secretary of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, said: "I shall be very surprised if our council does not express disappointment on the part of the four fifths of members who would have welcomed the opportunity to participate in the scheme."

About 100 IAPS members will benefit from the extension as junior departments of independent schools. But the remaining 400 will face extra competition for pupils from schools able to offer subsidised places.

Labour has pledged to phase out assisted places, which it says are divisive and elitist, and to use the money to cut class sizes. The scheme currently costs £107 million a year.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, accused Mrs Shephard of backtracking on the Prime Minister's pledge. "At this rate, the doubling of assisted places will take the best part of a decade to achieve. The simple fact is that all of the places have never been filled since the scheme began."

However, Mrs Shephard said in a parliamentary written answer that the pace of expansion would depend "on the supply of eligible high-quality places and on parental demand".

The extra £11 million to be spent on the scheme next year could fund about 3,000 more places, based on an average cost of £3,500 per year. Independent schools welcomed the move as a "bold initiative". David Smith, headmaster of Bradford Grammar School and chairman of the Independent Schools Joint Council's Assisted Places Committee, said: "The Government has moved with commendable speed to expand the scheme and it can expect a positive response."

The Independent Schools Information Service says demand for assisted places far exceeds supply, and expects schools to be keen to take up the extra places the Government is funding. As well as increasing the 293 schools presently in the scheme, ministers plan to offer places in smaller sixth forms. At present, they have to contain at least 60 pupils.

Mrs Shephard also hinted that the means test for parents may be relaxed. She said that she would "consider any representations on these matters".

Bright but can't add up, page 18

Officials play down meningitis outbreaks

By Edward Gorman

THE Public Health Laboratory attempted yesterday to reassure parents that there is not a nationwide epidemic of meningitis, after a new case was reported at a school in west London involving a 16-year-old girl.

The girl, from the Godolphin and Latymer School in Hammersmith, was admitted to St Thomas's Hospital at the weekend. The case follows the deaths of five people in a "cluster" outbreak of the disease in Lincoln and the death on Monday of a university student in Leeds.

Staff at Godolphin and Latymer, an independent girls' school with 700 pupils between 11 and 18, said there had been no panic among the girls or parents. The girl is out of danger and likely to be home by Christmas.

Margaret Rudland, the Head Mistress, has written to all parents, enclosing a letter from a consultant in communicable disease control at Hammersmith and Ealing Health Authority, advising them to be on the alert for early symptoms.

Officials at the Public Health Laboratory at Colindale, north London, said instances of the disease reported in recent weeks were not above the seasonal norm. "We get an increase every winter," a spokeswoman said. "The clustering is also a phenomenon you see with meningococcal disease and a pattern we have seen in previous winters."

Journalist says MP was eyeing men in gay pub

By Michael Horsnell

THE Conservative MP David Ashby was spotted by a journalist looking at young men in a well-known London gay haunt, the High Court was told yesterday. After discovering that Andrew Pierce of *The Times* would be appearing as a witness against him in a libel case, the MP for Leicestershire North West approached the reporter and called him a liar, the court was told.

Mr Ashby is suing *The Sunday Times* for libel over an allegation that he is homosexual. Mr Ashby, 55, denied being in the Queen's Head in Tryon Street, Chelsea, on the night of December 14, 1991.

Richard Hartley, QC, counsel for *The Sunday Times*, said Mr Pierce, who had worked at the House of Commons for nearly two years, would say in evidence that the MP was in one of London's "oldest and best known gay pubs" between 8.30 and 9.30 that night. Men could be seen holding hands and the bar staff were obviously gay, he said.

Mr Hartley asked Mr Ashby: "You were casually dressed in a dark anorak-type jacket without a hood. You had a pint in your hand and you were wandering around looking at younger men. Is any of that true?"

Mr Ashby said that at the time he was in his constituency though he accepted he had twice visited the pub, once with his wife and married friends, and once on a hot day when he sat outside. "Whether it's a gay pub, I don't know, but your solicitors have shown me a homosexual guide to London — I didn't know such things existed — which shows it's a homosexual pub, and I think I must accept that," Mr Ashby said.

He said he had met Mr Pierce four weeks ago at a reception to mark publication of *Great Parliamentary Scandals* by Matthew Parris of *The Times*, a former MP, "in which, I regret, I feature".

Mr Ashby added: "I accepted an invitation to the reception and I there met Mr Andrew Pierce whom I discovered on opening the book was an assistant editor of the book. I went up to him and said, 'You are the person who is going to lie about me'."

He told the jury that he regretted having said such a thing because it was nasty and because, as a criminal barrister, he realised how "fragile" identification evidence can be. He went up to Mr Pierce again, apologised and suggested that they should have a drink or dinner together when the case was over.

The MP is suing *The Sunday Times* and its former Editor Andrew Neil over an article in January 1994 alleging that he had spent a holiday in Goa with a male friend. The newspaper accepts the report was untrue but maintains Mr Ashby is a homosexual who had an affair with a man and is lying in denying it.

The case continues.

DAVID HARTLEY



Baron, the police horse, recovering with Jo Alcraft at the Blue Cross animal centre at Burford, Oxfordshire

Horse saved from animal sanctuary

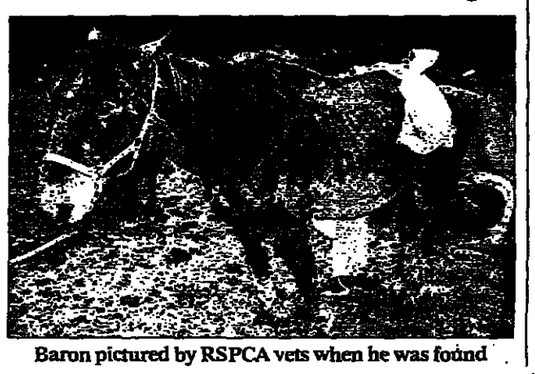
A METROPOLITAN police horse that regularly paraded at the Changing of the Guard has recovered after enduring weeks of neglect at an animal sanctuary where it was sent into retirement (Richard Duce writes).

After 18 years' service Baron, a 16-hand Irish Hunter, was put out to grass with the Joanne Long Memorial Trust animal charity.

The animal, which paraded on the Prince and Princess of Wales's wedding day, was rescued in a stricken condition from a remote Welsh hillside by the RSPCA. It has now been nursed back after horrified officers discovered its fate over several weeks at the hands of Steve Corsini, a trustee of the animal charity.

Baron was found up to his fetlocks in mud and his coat covered in sores and lice.

Last month Corsini was convicted on 28 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to animals. He was sentenced to 240 hours' community service, ordered to pay £1,000 and banned from keeping horses, ponies and cattle for ten years by Carmarthen magistrates.



Baron pictured by RSPCA vets when he was found

News in brief

Inquiry call into petrol price war

More than 6,000 petrol stations could be forced out of business over the next two years because they are in the crossfire of a price war between Esso and supermarket chains, the Government was told yesterday. The Petrol Retailers' Association, which represents independent filling stations, is demanding a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. It says the closure of so many petrol stations would result in 50,000 lost jobs. The main target for the retailers' complaint is Esso's "PriceWatch" campaign which has led to price cuts of up to 10p a litre.

Calais escape

Two British ferries trapped by a dock strike escaped from Calais last night. The crew of the *Stena Invicta* cut their own mooring ropes, while P&O's *Pride of Bruges* called in local police to force workers to handle the ship and to allow it to sail. Dockers are defying an injunction.

Travel news, pages 40 & 42

Jobcentres strike

A strike by thousands of jobcentre staff will go ahead today after talks aimed at settling a pay dispute broke down yesterday. The Civil and Public Services Association said jobcentres across the country would close for the day because of the walkout which will also hit unemployment benefit offices.

Liar sentenced

A sex attacker who was found to have lied to a judge that he was a Falklands veteran had his prison sentence increased from 27 months to three years at Cardiff Crown Court yesterday. Former Welsh Guardsman Phillip Edwards, 36, of Rhondda, claimed he was a survivor of the attack on the landing ship *Sir Galahad*.

Royal rugby cap

The Princess Royal's son Peter Phillips, 18, will win his first Scotland rugby cap next month, after Fergie Gladstone, great-great-grandson of the former prime minister, suffered a leg injury. He makes his debut for the national schools side against France at Goldenacre, Edinburgh, on December 22.

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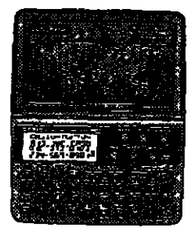
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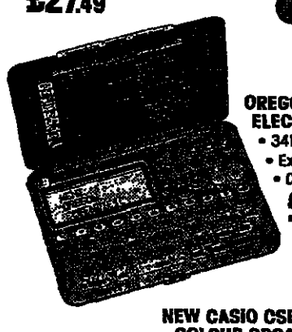
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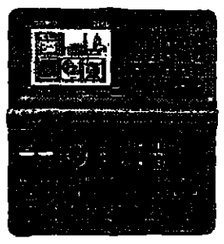
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British campaign improves safety on ferries

BY JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ALL Channel ferry operators are to be forced to improve the stability of their ships after the French government dropped opposition to British-backed proposals for a new safety standard.

Representatives of seven West European nations, including Italy, Spain and the Scandinavian countries as well as Britain and France, will meet in Sweden next week to agree the terms. They will require roll-on, roll-off ferries to be able to stay afloat in rough seas even with up to 50cm (20in) of sea water on the car deck.

Existing standards make no reference to water on the car deck, which caused the *Herald of Free Enterprise* to capsize within minutes off Zeebrugge, and the *Estonia* to sink in the Baltic, with the loss of more than 1,000 lives.

The move, requiring structural changes such as car-deck bulkheads, follows the failure of the UN's International Maritime Organisation to set a global standard on water on the car deck at its conference in London, which ended yesterday. The standard set by the breakaway group of seven nations is expected to apply to all 70 of the roll-on, roll-off ferries which are operating at British ports.

Agreement would represents a victory for the British Government. The French had said that British-backed proposals had "no technical foundation" and would create a precedent that would seriously hamper world trade.

A compromise was reached after days of tough negotiation. It averts the threat of French ships being banned from British ports for not reaching the required safety levels.

The new rules will probably be introduced over the next four years at a cost of up to £350 million. The main British operators have always insisted they would comply with whatever safety standards were set, but they were deeply suspicious of any standards that would not also apply to French ships.

The expected new rule is aimed at giving passengers enough time to evacuate a ship which is holed below the water line and has water on its car deck. Naval experts are worried that the ships would be unstable.

In their evidence to the Commons Transport Select Committee on ferry safety last year, the Institute of Naval Architects said that three out of four ferries would "sink like a stone" if water got on their car decks.

Feuding grandfathers return to court in case of the ever-growing cypress

Neighbours refuse to bury hatchet in hedge dispute

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

TWO grandfathers whose war over a fast-growing hedge has become one of Britain's longest neighbourhood disputes returned to court yesterday as unswerving as ever.

The majesty of the law, in the shape of Mr Recorder Wolton, QC, two barristers, two solicitors, a clerk, usher and arboriculturists hired by each side, gathered in Birmingham County Court for two days of legal argument over the pruning without permission of a 25ft cypress hedgerow.

Of the parties to the dispute only the hedge was missing, but portraits of the monster as it continued its upwardly mobile progress were described by the judge as very helpful. The four-year legal battle, which is likely to cost £65,000, follows the lopping of 9ft from the top of the cypress by Michael Jones, 67, a retired teacher, after it reached 25ft. His neighbour Bernard Stanton, 87, a retired civil engineer, is seeking £30,000 damages for trespass and damage to the hedge.

The saga began in 1971 when Mr Jones and his wife moved into a new house built on the Bournville Village Trust estate in Selly Oak, Birmingham, the site of the model 19th-century community created by George Cadbury for his workers. Before the new house was built, Mr Stanton, who had lived there since 1947, had a view of a field of ponies and an open-air communal swimming pool, now filled in.

Mr Stanton planted ten tiny, innocent-looking shrubs on the border where his garden backs on to his neighbour's, selecting *Cupressus leylandii*, the fastest-growing breed of conifer, which can reach 100ft in about 30 years.



Bernard Stanton on his way to court yesterday

The Joneses, who are keen gardeners, admired the hedge at first, watering it through the drought of 1975 and treating it to Mr Jones's special recipe compost.

But when the hedge reached 25ft, the portly Mr Jones — in a series of arthritic dawn raids — began trimming the cypress to relieve the gloomy shadow cast over his own cherished garden display of fuchsias, lobelias and dwarf conifers. Mr Stanton took out an injunction and claimed damages in 1991. Two years later a court ruled that Mr Jones had the right to maintain, replace and repair the hedge.

At a Court of Appeal hearing last year Lady Justice Butler-Sloss upheld that decision, saying: "These two elderly gentlemen should really bring their unhappy dispute to an end as soon as possible." The case was sent back to Birmingham, where battle resumed yesterday.

Much of the day was spent in cross-examining Roy Finch, the arboriculturist hired by Mr Stanton. The unfortunate Mr Finch predicted in 1989 that the hedge would soon fall prey to disease and die because of the way it had been cut by Mr Jones.

Because of the length of the litigation, he has returned to the witness stand in time to see his prediction prove spectacularly inaccurate. On his way to court yesterday, Mr Finch visited Selly Oak and stood in the middle of the hedge to discover it had continued its vigorous growth to more than 22ft, almost as high as when Mr Jones first reached for his pruning shears.

Philip Kremen, barrister for Mr Jones, pulled apart Mr Finch's expert evidence as confidently as if he was plucking leaves from a twig. "You have been surprised if not astonished at the resilience and growth of these trees since you last saw them," he told Mr Finch, who conceded that he was.

Mr Kremen: "Your forecasts at every stage of this case have proved to be wrong, haven't they?" Mr Finch: "On the growth of the trees, yes."

On their resilience, Mr Finch conceded he had been wrong. On their susceptibility to disease, he agreed he had been wrong so far.

To prove how carefully his client would have cut the trees, Mr Kremen played his trump card: "Did you know that Mr Jones has won the garden competition of the Bournville Trust in 1993 and 1995?"

Mr Finch replied: "I have had no contact with Mr Jones — no I wasn't aware of that."

DAVID JONES



Maureen and Michael Jones are dwarfed by the hedge behind their garden

Mr Stanton, magnificently unbending and unsmiling at the back of the court, made a strange hissing sigh.

Mr Jones, who is writing a book entitled *Defence of the Boundary* to replace the life savings he has spent fighting the case (an arboriculturist cost him up to £33 an hour in the early stages) sat two places from Mr Stanton's son Paul, 55, who was convicted of hitting him four years ago.

The case continues.

Falconer guilty of keeping two eagles

A FALCONER was convicted yesterday of illegally possessing two rare golden eagles. Keith Sweetman was given a conditional discharge by magistrates who decided against fining him after being told that would bring an automatic ban from keeping protected birds for five years. He was ordered to pay £500 court costs.

Sweetman, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, was convicted under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act of possessing the two female golden eagles on September 16 last year.

Magistrates at Aylesbury were told that the two birds were found in aviaries at Sweetman's former home by police after a tip-off from Department of Environment officials. Sweetman, 52, who denied the charge, claimed the seven-week-old chicks had been left on the doorstep by a stranger and he had tried to get them registered with the department.

After the case he said: "I am disappointed but relieved at the low penalty and the fact I am not banned from keeping birds. I wouldn't advise anyone to take in birds, no matter who they are, because of what happened to me."

Sweetman, a falconer for 34 years and founder of the Federation for the Protection of Falconers, told the court that he notified the department of the find within a week so the birds could be returned. He had received no reply. He claimed that he was being victimised, and the department wanted to get him banned. But Peter Tooke, for the prosecution, said the birds were offspring of two different mothers and could not have been chance finds.

Robin Dupreez, for the defence, said his client's only wrongdoing had been that he had not contacted the department quickly enough.

Choirboy asks court for classic ruling

A CHOIRBOY is taking the compilers of the classical album charts to court over their refusal to admit his debut solo album on the ground that choirboy music is not "automatically classical".

Anthony Way, 12, and his record company Permanent Records are seeking judicial review of the decision in the High Court. This will be the first time that Chart Information Network, which compiles the charts, has been challenged in the courts.

Anthony, a pupil at St Paul's Cathedral Choir School in London, said yesterday he was upset and shocked by the decision to exclude *The Choirboy* from the classical charts. "I am classically trained and I have a treble voice, which you can't use for anything except classical music," he said. "If my record is not classical, then what is it? It's hardly rock music."

The album is Anthony's second. The first, featuring him singing the soundtrack to the television series *The Choir*, reached the top of the classical charts earlier this year and was also a hit in the pop charts.

John Lennard of Permanent Records said it was absurd that the new album, which has already sold 28,000 copies in a week, has been excluded. He said the album includes a higher percentage of classical works than the first. "This decision has caused tremendous confusion as the retailers are putting *The Choirboy* in the classical sections but it is not in the classical chart."



Way: shocked that his record was excluded

Boy of 3 died in jet ski accident

A FATHER told an inquest yesterday that his three-year-old son died in a flooded gravel pit after being thrown from a jet ski they were both riding.

Aarome Bessasa-Grant spent up to seven minutes in the water after the jet ski ran out of control. Kevon Jobson, his father, tried to resuscitate him, but he died later in hospital, the inquest in Oxford was told.

Mr Jobson had not been wearing a lifejacket and was trespassing with friends at Drayton Lake in Berinsfield, Oxfordshire. He said he had taken the jet ski for a test ride before going out again with Aarome, who was known as Charlie, wedged between his legs. He planned to ride slowly to protect the boy.

"I rode too slowly into a corner, causing the jet ski to capsize with me and my son," Mr Jobson, of Oxford, said. "I did not realise that when the jet ski was running slow it did not have the necessary momentum. When it capsized me and Charlie surfaced apart from one another. I was treading water and was fully clothed. I was chatting to my son, telling him to hold on and it would be OK. I then found myself being sucked by the current which pulled me out.

"I made a panic swim to the jet ski, which was still afloat. Charlie was afloat on his back with his head tilted up. He was punching his hands and kicking his legs. The current was taking him further and further away.

"I tried to explain to him to just hold on and not try and fight the current. I said, 'Come on Charlie, I'm going to get you.' But it was too far to get to him; I am not a champion swimmer."

Mr Jobson then unsuccesfully tried to right the jet ski. "Everyone was shouting at me to do this and do that, but it became impossible. I tried again and was thrown back into the water. By this time I could see my son drifting away on the current. I put my hand up and shouted for help."

Kevin Thornton, a witness, swam out to the jet ski and brought the boy ashore. Mr Jobson, who had first-aid training, gave him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. "He was breathing OK. He had brought some food up and then started to burp, which indicated water had got into him. I put him in the recovery position." However, the boy died as a result of lack of oxygen to his brain.

Nicholas Gardiner, the coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death. He said: "Water is an unforgiving creature and I think people who have learnt to swim in warm waters and swimming pools do not appreciate the effects of swimming in rivers and gravel pits. Proper buoyancy aids are necessary and it is not something on which one should scrimp. They are not cheap items but are well worthwhile. This is a sad story that indicates that lifejackets should not only be worn by children but by all adults, no matter how competent or physically fit."

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Schoolboys suspected over find that fooled museum experts for 80 years

Prized Stone Age carving exposed as juvenile hoax

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN ENGRAVED bone believed to date from the Stone Age and one of only two of its type in Britain has been shown to be a fake.

The bone is in fact a medieval rib, probably from a horse, and dates from somewhere between the end of the 13th and the beginning of the 15th century. The engraving on it, of the head and forequarters of a horse, was probably carried out by a forger after the bone was dug up in Dorset earlier this century.

Suspicion seems likely to centre on two boys from Sherborne School who found the bone in a quarry in 1911, or perhaps on their science teacher. But the real victim was Arthur Smith Woodward, Keeper of Geology at the Natural History Museum, to whom it was sent.

He was duped not once, but twice. He championed the *Piltdown skull, now regarded* as the scientific fake of the century. Those skull fragments "discovered" in 1913 were thought to be remains of the earliest human in Europe until proved to be a hoax in 1953. The jaw was from an orang-utan. Woodward also wrote the first description of the Sherborne bone, backing its claim to be an example of palaeolithic art.

Despite Woodward's support, the bone has always had its detractors. As early as 1924 Professor William Sollas, an Oxford archaeologist, declared it a fake perpetrated by the boys, Arnaldo Cortesi and Philip Grove.

But Sollas's accusation was answered by Elliot Steel, the *boys' science master, and oth*er experts have since supported Steel's view that the bone was genuine.

Now Woodward's successors at the museum have used modern methods of analysis to prove it a forgery. Dr Chris Stringer of the Department of Palaeontology at the museum, with colleagues including Dr Francesco d'Errico of the *Institut du Quaternaire in* Talence, France, report in *Nature* that the bone cannot be what it is purported to be.

Radiocarbon dating carried out in Oxford shows that the bone is 610 years old, plus or minus 45 years. If it had been a Stone Age artefact it would have been more than ten times older.

Analysis of the engraving, at which Dr d'Errico is an expert, shows that the lines are free of the sediment that otherwise covers the bone. *This means that the cuts were* made after the bone had lain for many years in the soil. Furthermore, the lines are not like those made by stone tools on fresh bone, but have flaking at the edges, showing that the lines were scratched on an already weathered bone.

Exactly when the forgery was carried out cannot be determined, though Dr Stringer suspects it was soon after the bone had been found, and just before it was given to Woodward.

"*Whether the schoolboys* did it we don't know," Dr Stringer says. "But drawings had been published of a Stone Age engraving which they might have traced or copied."

The bone was found in quarry workings near Sherborne with fragments of stone and fossils and believed to be debris from a cave occupied by Stone Age man. Woodward considered it genuine and published his description in April 1914.

"Was it a joke or did it have *a serious intent?" Dr Stringer* asks. "We don't know."

But the museum will no be throwing it out. "We shall keep it as a curiosity and as a warning to others," he says.

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Dr Chris Stringer of the Natural History Museum with the bone now dated to the Middle Ages; its engraving is fake



Woodward: twice wrong

Lump removal 'proves equal of mastectomy'

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WOMEN whose breast cancer is found when it is still small do not need to have the entire breast removed, two studies have confirmed. They show that "lumpectomy" — removing just the lump in the breast — followed by radiotherapy is as effective as total breast removal. However, the results leave a question mark over whether radiotherapy has any overall benefit.

An international team organised by scientists at the Clinical Trial Service Unit at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, reviewed and combined data from 36 trials. In a second report, an American study of 2,000 women reaches the same conclusions, the *New England Journal of Medicine* reports.

There was no significant difference in survival between women who had lumpectomy *plus radiotherapy* and those who had mastectomy. In both groups 70 per cent were still alive ten years after surgery.

Professor Richard Peto, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's Oxford Unit, said: "If the cancer is small enough for lumpectomy to be practicable, and if the lumpectomy is followed by radiotherapy, *then only about one woman in ten will need more surgery.*"

The American results, from a long-running project, have been overshadowed by the discovery last year that false data was submitted for six women treated at the St Luc Hospital in Montreal. A re-examination of the data to exclude these cases now shows it makes no difference: lumpectomy is still as safe as mastectomy.

The only doubt arises over the use of radiotherapy. The results considered by the Oxford study show that it does reduce the risk of the tumour reappearing, but does not significantly improve survival chances. This is because radiation treatment slightly increases the risk of death from other causes, especially in women over 60.

☐ Work is to start in January on the lung cancer research centre for which the entertainer Roy Castle campaigned tirelessly as he was dying from the disease.

Mr Castle, who died aged 62 in September last year, devoted his last few months to fundraising for his "Cause for Hope" appeal, making a tour of 12 cities.

Work will start on the £3.8 million Roy Castle International Centre for Lung Cancer Research in Liverpool on January 10. The centre will be the world's first international centre dedicated to the illness.

The foundation has raised £7.2 million since July 1994. *The remainder* will go towards staffing and running costs, and a second appeal will be launched to pay for the second phase of building work. The first phase is due to be completed in July 1997.



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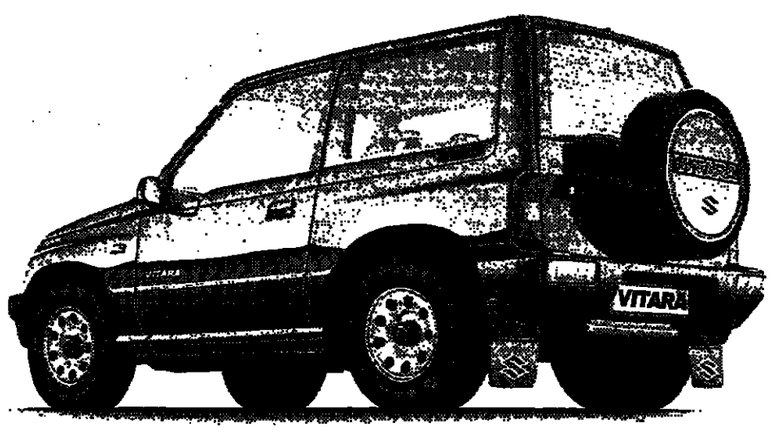
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Scientists claim first sight of mind's eye

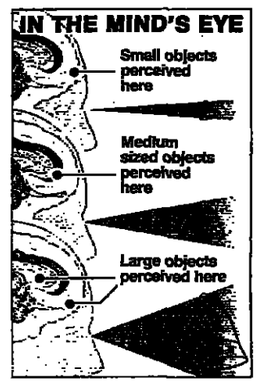
BY OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

AMERICAN scientists have located the "mind's eye", the parts of the brain where mental images are generated.

A team from Harvard University and Massachusetts General Hospital tested their theory by asking male volunteers to close their eyes and visualise objects while the blood flow in the brain was measured. They were shown pictures with their eyes open, then asked to imagine them at different sizes with their eyes closed. Areas of the brain they were using were identified by the increased blood flow through them.

The results, published in *Nature*, showed that in right-handed volunteers most of the images were generated in the right side of the cortex, the outer layer of the brain. Images of different sizes were generated in different areas, implying that the images are primarily pictorial. In addition, all the images lie close to the eye, before the brain has had time to attach language-based labels to the images.

The work does not prove that these are the areas where visual images are stored, merely where they are generated. This, the team says, implies that knowledge can fundamentally bias what one sees, or that one is likely to see what one expects to see.



Nerve tests give clue to spinal care

BY NIGEL HAWKES

THE prospect of repairing catastrophic spinal injuries like the one that crippled the *Superman* actor Christopher Reeve has moved a step closer.

A scientific team at Georgetown University Medical Centre in Washington DC has persuaded the nerves in the spinal cord of rats to grow back after injury. Though still a long way from clinical application, the results are "a genuine step forward", says Dr Clifford Woolf of University College London, in a commentary in *Nature*.

One reason why nerves do not repair themselves is that myelin, the material surrounding them, produces growth-inhibiting substances. The team from Georgetown injected injured rats with an antibody designed to neutralise the growth inhibitors. Those rats recovered the ability to do things that untreated animals could not.

European mink near extinction

BY NICK NUTTALL

THE European mink has joined the list of animals on the verge of extinction, British scientists report.

The animal, which has a distinctive white nose that looks as though it has been dipped in powder, was once common across the former Soviet Union and Europe as far west as France. However, scientists from Oxford University and researchers in Estonia, Belorussia and Russia have found that the animal, *Mustela lutreola*, is now extinct in the wild except for a small population in north eastern Belorussia.

The scientists believe the animal's decline is probably the result of the introduction across Europe of the more aggressive American mink, *Mustela vison*, for fur farming in 1926, and the loss of its habitat.

Dr David McDonald, a zoologist at Oxford co-ordinating the project, said yesterday that the relic population in Belorussia was also heading for extinction. The researchers *are now starting* a captive breeding programme of the European species at Tallinn zoo in Estonia to reintroduce the creature to the wild.

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Inquiry ordered into 'party within a party'

Labour suspends left-wing leader of Walsall council

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE left-wing leader of Walsall council was suspended from the Labour Party yesterday and will be forced to relinquish control of the authority.

Dave Church and his deputy, John Rothery, are among five people suspended by the National Executive Committee, which has now ordered an inquiry into the Walsall Socialist Group. The five are members of the group, which has been likened to Militant and described in a Labour report as a party within a party.

Labour's action follows heavy criticism of the council leadership over its plans to sell Walsall civic centre and set up 55 district "mini-town halls". The NEC voted 23 to 2 in favour of the suspensions after a recommendation in a report from John Prescott, Clare Short and Nigel Harris of the AEEU engineering union.

The three NEC members all have left-wing sympathies but felt there was no point in trying to deal with Mr Church, even though he had agreed to wider consultations about his town hall plans. Ms Short said: "When we went to Walsall we believed that we could conciliate, but the people with whom we were negotiating broke their word. We have now evidence of a tight and disciplined group within the party and we have to act."

Last night Mr Church said: "I am disgusted that they have come along with totally misleading, inaccurate accusations. They laughingly offered something called conciliation and when we satisfied the panel they just came back with the favourite old catch-all for a witch hunt — a party within a party.

"We were found guilty when Mawhinney attacked us in August and they have been looking round ever since for a charge to find us guilty of. All we did was follow the manifesto we were elected to implement.

"I am now going to do a lot of thinking. But one thing is certain — I am not going to go away."

The suspended five include one other councillor, Brian Powell, chairman of Walsall Labour Party. None of the five can continue to hold office in the party. They will keep their seats on the council but will not be eligible to hold any official posts.

Keith Rochelle and Steve Baggott, the other two suspended by the NEC, are key members of the Walsall Socialist Group. Labour rules ban the operation of independent groups within the party.

According to national Labour Party sources, group membership is by invitation. Those asked to join are supposed to pay 1 per cent of their salary towards its funding.

Meetings are said to be in secret with decisions binding on all members at all levels. The party says that the group is a Walsall phenomenon operating a bit like Militant, unaffiliated to anything.

But Mr Church said: "It is total rubbish to say it exists as a secret society, dictating policy. We meet to discuss issues, that's all, and there is no levy on membership."

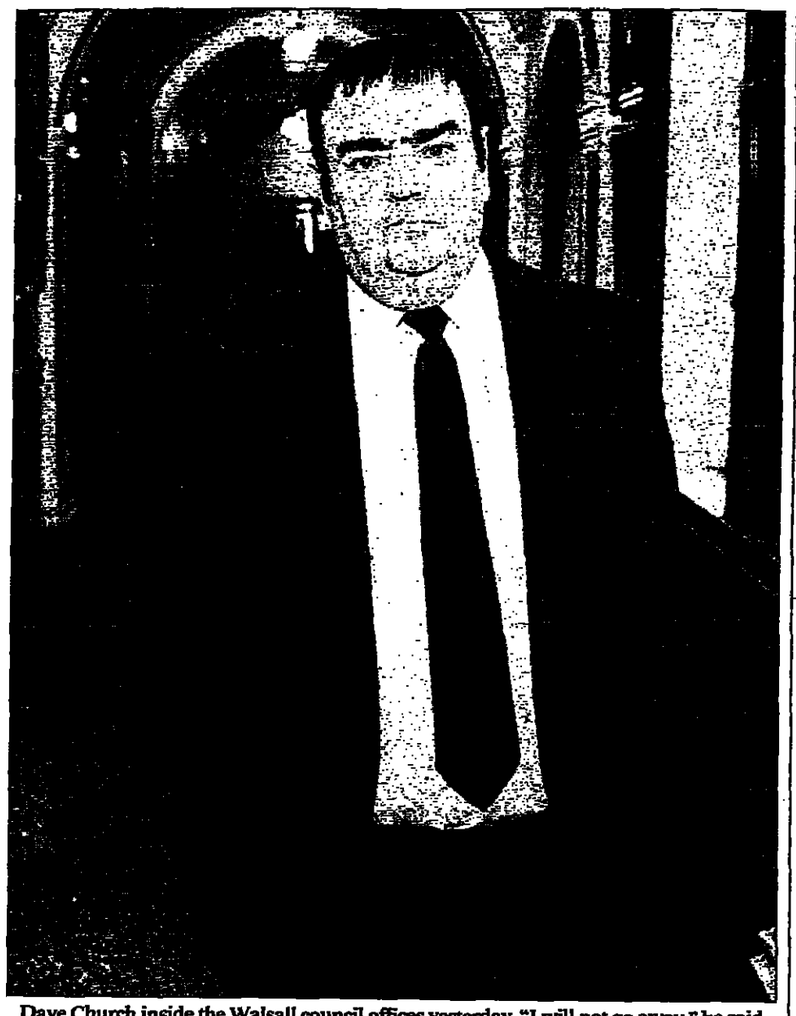
Mr Rothery said: "This talk of a tight, disciplined group is not true. It does not have any premises, there is no constitution, there are no rules, there is nothing." The group met occasionally to discuss issues such as the Maastricht treaty, the NHS and Bosnia. It was affiliated to the Socialist Campaign Group, connected to the Campaign Group of MPs.

"Without us having any opportunity to answer the allegations, they have taken action. This started in the summer when the Walsall Labour Party was suspended for alleged bullying and intimidation. This has been dropped now because there is no truth in it. Now we are hearing allegations about a party within a party. All I can conclude is that there has been a decision nationally that can perhaps win a few votes in the South East to be seen to be strong against us."

Fifteen of the 34 Labour councillors belong to the group and there are 15 moderates. The three suspensions mean that the moderates will have a majority when the remaining Labour members chose a new leader.

The new leadership must decide what to do about the decentralisation plan, which has yet to go beyond the appointment of five new chief officers as members of a "corporate board" to run Walsall.

☐ Stewart Foster, Labour leader of Leicester City Council, resigned yesterday when he lost a vote of confidence after an internal report confirmed that he had been having an affair with Kathy Kerswell-Reid, head of the council's policy unit. The report said that Ms Kerswell-Reid had been sent on a sabbatical course because the affair "presented a risk of maladministration".



Dave Church inside the Walsall council offices yesterday. "I will not go away," he said

Lilley hoping to save £600m with fraud crackdown

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER LILLEY announced a crackdown on housing benefit fraud yesterday among measures designed to save an extra £600 million next year.

The Social Security Secretary said that total fraud savings would rise to £1.5 billion next year and £2.5 billion by 1998-99.

Mr Lilley disclosed that a further £134 million would be invested in sophisticated computer schemes and other methods to spot false claims for benefits. These include increasing the number of home visits to verify claimants' details and introducing a computerised benefit smartcard due to be launched next year.

But he made clear that he would focus next year's campaign against fraud on the £10.5 billion housing benefit bill. Making his uprating statement in the Commons yesterday, he suggested that £1 billion was lost in housing benefit fraud every year. A national computer record of housing benefit claimants will be introduced next year to stop people claiming from more than one authority.

Local councils will be eligible for incentive payments if they exceed given thresholds for combating fraud. But local councils that fail to achieve "reasonable levels" of performance in preventing fraud will risk financial penalties.

From October next year, local authorities will be able to make the first Giro cheque for housing benefit payable to landlords, to stop tenants absconding without making initial payments. In addition Mr Lilley has decided to have housing benefit paid in arrears to stop the "wrongful" payments sometimes made as a result of paying in advance.

He gave further details of Budget measures to cut housing benefit for young people. From next October housing benefit for the 208,000 people under 25 living in rented accommodation will be limited to the average local rent for shared accommodation rather than self-contained accommodation.

Social security figures suggest that some youngsters could lose out by £33 per week under the changes. The figures will apply retrospectively, so that anyone moving home after January 1st, next year will be affected.

"Housing benefit should not provide an incentive for young people to leave the parental home unnecessarily or to take on high priced accommodation at the taxpayer's expense. Nor is it right to lock young people into benefit dependency. The higher the rent paid by benefit the greater the disincentive to work."

Mr Lilley also confirmed that he would freeze benefits for lone parents and move towards phasing them out to ensure that single mothers were not given preferential treatment. He pointed out that lone parents now cost the taxpayer £9.4 billion a year, equivalent to over £1500 a year extra tax on every working family with children of their own. "The right aproach is neither to penalise nor to promote lone parenthood," he said.

"Today's measures continue my step by step reforms of social security. I have protected the most vulnerable and I am creating a fairer and more modern benefit system."

Arts groups outraged by Budget cuts

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ALEXANDRA FREAN AND JOHN GOODBODY

THE worlds of arts, heritage and sport reacted with dismay yesterday at the cuts in government spending. Small arts groups said that Budget cuts had left them on their knees.

In the past three years, 85 theatre companies have closed. One company after another criticised what they see as the Government's inability to appreciate that the nation's culture and sports need investment. However, Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, said that arts, sports and heritage organisations had to live in the "real world" and accept reductions in their budgets. She said it would be foolish to expect that the advent of National Lottery grants would exempt them from normal Treasury scrutiny.

Nicola Thorold, director of the Independent Theatre Council, which represents small and medium-sized companies, said she was outraged. "They promised in the election manifesto to maintain support for the arts; that's now dropped by £18 million in real terms. They promised when they brought in the lottery, that it wouldn't affect revenue funding; there's been a 5 per cut in real terms. The lottery is wonderful, but going into buildings and not artists."

Libby MacNamara, director of the Association of British Orchestras, said companies would inevitably close. She said Britain should feel ashamed of its public arts spending compared to other European countries.

Dr Alan Borg, director of the V&A Museum, whose budget has been cut by £1 million to £30.6 million, said it was ironic Mrs Bottomley had maintained her department's spending on tourism, while cutting museums spending. "What are museums, if not a major contribution to tourism?"

Dick Palmer, secretary of the British Olympic Association, said he was "greatly saddened" by the cut in the Sports Council's grant. "Our Olympic governing bodies are worse off now, than in the build-up to Barcelona four years ago. Our team going to Atlanta will be the smallest since Moscow in 1980."

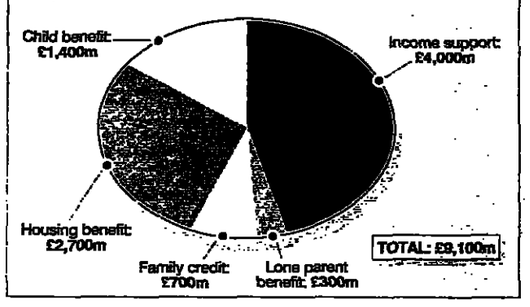
IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: debates on the future of Famagusta and fire services in North Worcestershire. At 12.30, President Clinton addressed both Houses of Parliament in the Royal Gallery.

In the afternoon, MPs put questions to Foreign Office Ministers. The Prime Minister made a statement on Northern Ireland, followed by ministerial statements on social security and Scotland. MPs then debated the Budget for the second day of a six-day debate. In the Lords: debate on the Budget.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister, followed by the Budget debate, third day. In the Lords: peers will debate the Family Law Bill, second reading, and reports of human rights violations in Sudan.

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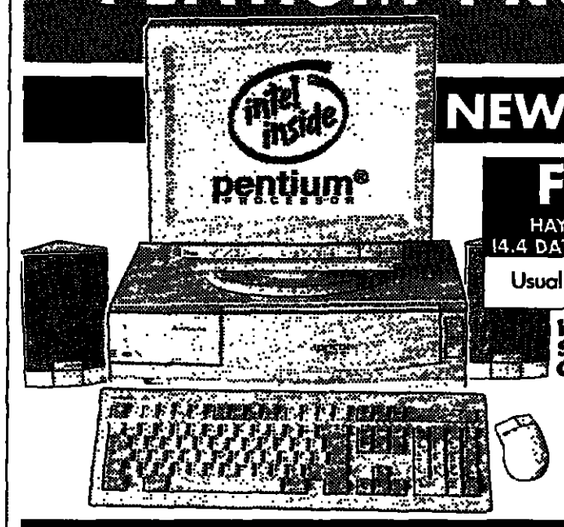
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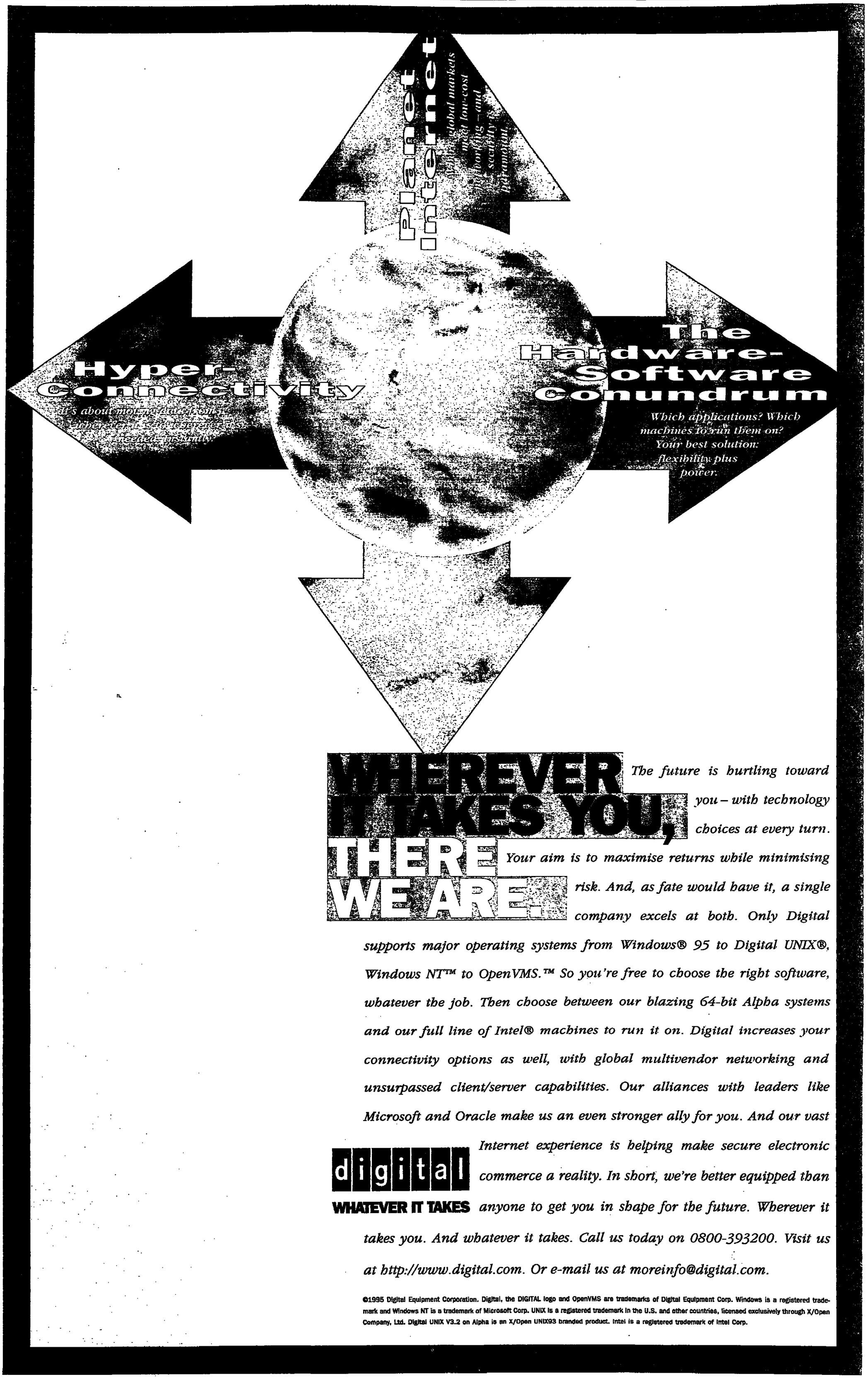
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Clarke has ensured that tax burden will continue to rise

The populist critics of the Budget have got it wrong. Kenneth Clarke did not err on the side of responsibility and caution. He had, and has, little freedom of manoeuvre. There was no realistic scope for a bigger tax "giveaway".

To use the meaningless distinction widely aired over the past two days, it was not an economic as opposed to a political Budget. The measures were certainly not reckless, or blatantly irresponsible, but the overall impression of caution is misleading. Mr Clarke took a number of risks which could make his Budget look less safe in a year's time.

The small reductions in mortgage interest rates announced yesterday were celebrated as a vindication of the Budget strategy, and so they are. But they are the minimum that could have been expected, especially in the light of the easing of interest rates worldwide. The striking feature is the tight constraints on Mr Clarke. He was able to announce only limited income tax cuts (really a tiny one-year dip in a rising overall tax burden) because of optimistic assumptions about economic growth,

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

a bigger than usual reduction in the reserve for unforeseen spending items, an implausible further squeeze on Whitehall running costs and some creative accounting on capital programmes.

These calculations could go wrong in several ways, as they have over the last year: exports and growth could be less buoyant, tax revenue could again be lower than expected, public spending may not be as tightly controlled as it has been. So public borrowing could again be higher than forecast. If the current slowdown is more than a pause in growth, there is nothing wrong in temporarily higher borrowing. But that is no excuse for a loosening of fiscal policy, or for tax cuts not matched by lower spending plans. Mr Clarke has accepted these constraints. In his speech, he repeatedly highlighted the extra money for education, health and the police. As the leading One Nation Tory in the Cabinet, he endorses the current structure of the welfare state.

Admittedly, the gradual changes introduced by Peter Lilley have helped to slow the real growth of social security spending from 3 to 1 pwr cent a year. This is a big saving, but the much trumpeted reduction in the share of public spending in national income to less than 40 per cent in 1997-98 will only be after several years of a growing economy. As Professor Nicholas Bosanquet has warned, there is no guarantee that the share will not climb above 40 per cent again in the next recession. The main Tory achievement, and it is a considerable one, is to have reduced the peak recession share of spending below the levels of the mid-1970s and mid-1980s. This is not a dramatic rolling back of the size of the public sector to the scale of Japan or America.

The pertinent criticism of Mr Clarke from the Right is not that he has failed to tackle waste (he has done as much, and probably more, than is credible), but that he has not at least started to make long-term changes in the structure of the public sector. The Private Finance Initiative is largely irrelevant since it does not replace public by private finance in the long term but merely defers taxpayer funding of projects. Apart from pensions and student loans, the Government has been cautious about switching the costs of provision to the private sector.

That is where Mr Clarke's caution really matters and, over the long term, that is well after the next election, limits the scope for the type of deep cuts in tax which the Tory populists demand. Mr Clarke is right that there are no easy short-term cuts. But by failing to address the long-term issues he has ensured that the tax burden will remain high, and will continue to rise.

PETER RIDDELL

Forsyth announces scheme to debate Bills in Scotland

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR and fellow Cabinet ministers will take part in parliamentary debates in Scotland under changes unveiled by the Government yesterday.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, responded to the growing clamour for power to be devolved north of the border by announcing wider opportunities for Scottish MPs to debate legislation.

Mr Forsyth, taking steps to block opposition party pressure for devolution or independence, is to strengthen the powers of the Scottish Grand Committee, comprising all 72 Scottish MPs. He said that the moves would help to strengthen the Union which he described as a "growing and living relationship".

The committee, which meets in various Scottish and English locations, will take over responsibility from the Commons for debating uncontroversial Scottish Bills. It will also meet more regularly in Scotland and move to more venues there.

MPs will be allowed to set up special standing committees, calling for evidence from outside experts, to consider uncontroversial measures. The legislation would not be debated in the Commons, but Westminster would retain the final power to pass it.

Under changes aimed at making ministers more directly accountable to Scottish MPs, the Prime Minister and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will be the first Cabinet ministers to take part in debates in Scotland early in the new year. Previously, only Scottish Office ministers have been called to give evidence but Mr Forsyth said it was time other ministers started to "wake up" to issues concerning Scotland.

Mr Forsyth also made clear that 12 committee meetings will be arranged in Scotland to discuss government business, half selected by the Government, four by Labour and one each by the Scottish National Party and Liberal Democrats.

Ministers of all government departments will be expected to give evidence to the committee, although Scottish MPs will not be able to demand the presence of any particular minister. However, officials concede that public demands for the appearance of a particular minister would be difficult to resist.

Mr Forsyth said that Cabinet ministers often made decisions which impacted directly on the people of Scotland. "So it is only right that they too should have to explain to the Scottish Grand Committee in Scotland why particular policies are being followed and the benefits they will bring."

He said that important innovation added "a completely new dimension of accountability for Government business in Scotland, with the Prime Minister, Chancellor . . . and Deputy Prime Minister being able to present policies in a forum which will be accessible to the people of Scotland".

Mr Forsyth made the announcements on the eve of a St Andrew's Day speech today in which he will outline other changes to the powers of local government in Scotland. The speech will coincide with the unveiling of Labour's blueprint for a Scottish Constitutional Assembly.

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, ridiculed the proposals, claiming that the appearance of ministers amounted to no more than a "travelling circus" which would provide Cabinet ministers with the opportunity for "weekend breaks and away-day trips".

He dismissed Mr Forsyth's plans as "a con trick, nothing more, nothing less". He added: "His revamped Scottish Grand Committee will be little more than a rubber stamp for non-controversial legislation.

"This is a stark admission that the Government's policies towards Scotland have utterly failed. It's a confession that for the past 16 years the Tories have got it wrong on the government of Scotland."

Marriage can make all the difference

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

IF LIZ HURLEY and Hugh Grant, the nation's most celebrated cohabitees, with shared residences in Chelsea and Bath, were to forget that incident on Sunset Boulevard and marry, would they be better off?

The Chancellor certainly believes so. Charged with being a home wrecker by colleagues and churchmen, Kenneth Clarke mounted a spirited defence of his tax policy for married couples.

He declared in Tuesday's Budget speech: "It is a myth that the tax system penalises marriage. Any young couple contemplating living together and starting a family will pay less tax by getting married."

However, Mr Clarke then announced a paltry increase in the married couple's allowance. Frozen since 1991, it is being raised by £70 to £1,790. But a reduction in the rate of the tax to 15 per cent in a previous Budget mean that it is worth only £268.50, not enough to buy a train on one of those meringue-style dresses pilloried in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.



Yesterday, however, accountants specialising in personal taxation pointed out that the Chancellor's words were just about accurate, if only because there are no special allowances for live-in lovers without offspring. Only if those who live together have children does the taxman look kindly on their situation. They can claim the additional personal allowance, given at the same level and rate of tax as the married couple's allowance.

Elspeth May, a partner at the accountancy firm KMPG, calculates that a couple who were both earning £50,000 but without children would pay, under the Budget tax changes, an extra £269 in tax if they chose to live together rather than tie the knot.

Matrimony also suits pensioners who are entitled to higher personal and married couple's allowances. A 75-year-old man with a £15,000 income and his 72-year-old wife, with interest of £5,000 from her savings, would pay together £1,765.15 in tax. Were they unmarried, this bill would rise by £473.25. Mrs May points out that married couples with substantial investments are also able to benefit where cohabitees are not. Were Miss Hurley and Mr Grant to name the day, clever tax planning would allow them to transfer assets from one to the other without fear of incurring capital gains tax at 40 per cent.

Marriage-friendly inheritance tax rules allow estates to pass tax-free to a spouse. If your significant other half leaves everything to you, tax will be payable on everything over £154,000, although the figure rises to £200,000 on April 6.

'Prisoner at No. 11' mocked by Brown

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

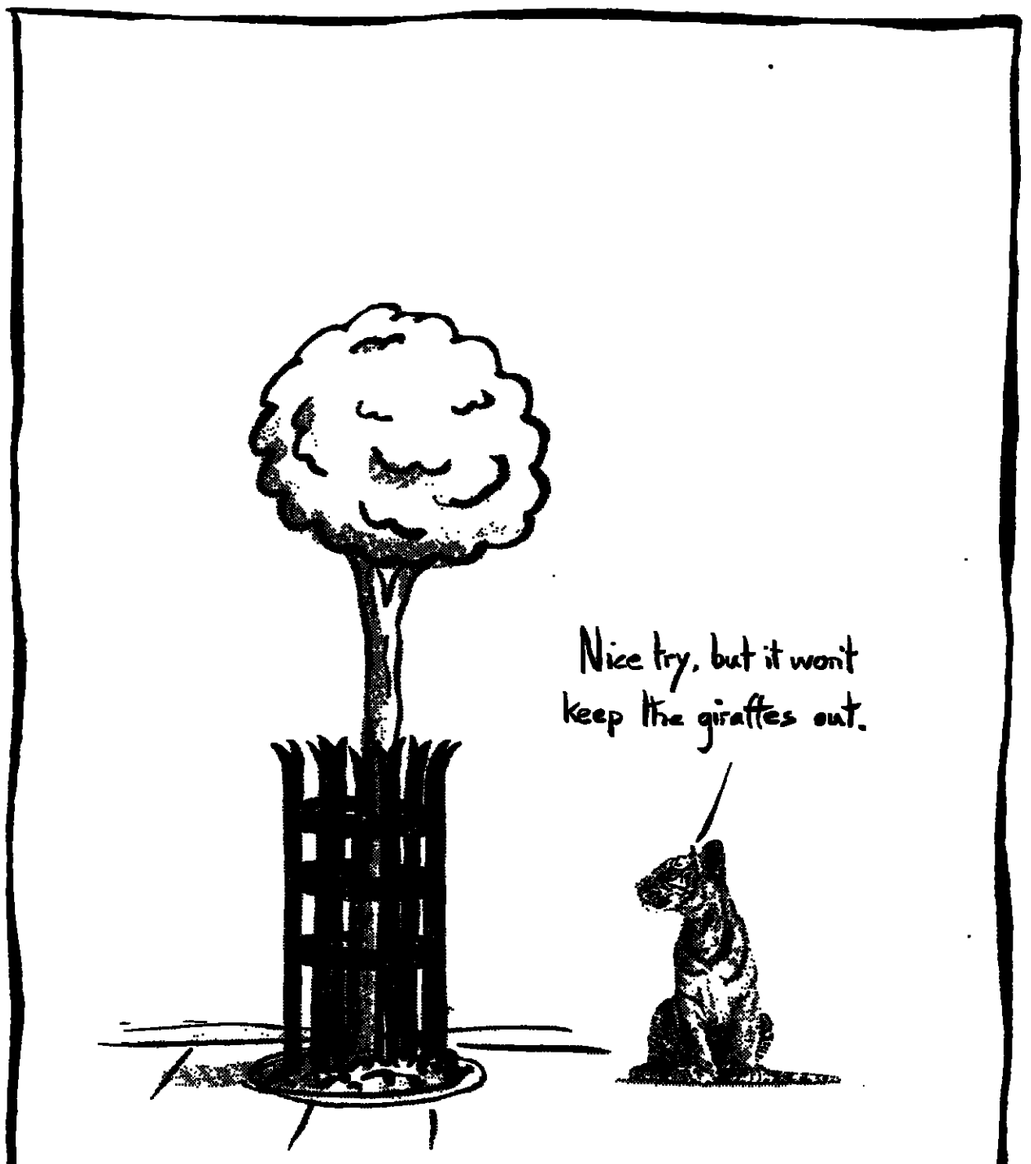
GORDON BROWN branded Kenneth Clarke yesterday as a Chancellor "imprisoned by his own economy" and unable to provide a Budget which the British people needed.

Opening the second-day debate, the Shadow Chancellor said the Conservatives had taken away pounds in recent tax rises but given back pennies. "There is no sign from his Budget that he has any sense of direction or strategy for the economy. He is a man without real choices, a prisoner of this Government's failure, paralysed by everything that has happened to the economy for the last 16 years."

Mr Brown said that despite the 1p cut in income tax, people were nearly £700 a year worse off after the 21 tax rises of recent years. "People will ask, 'All this suffering — what has it been for?' "

For the Government, William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said Mr Clarke had taken tough decisions to put public finances on a sound footing. "Sound public finances cannot mean ever-higher taxes to pay for ever-higher spending. That is the fundamental difference between this party and the party opposite."

He said the economy had experienced growth for the past four years. Exports, investment and living standards were up while unemployment was down. "And all this without inflation rising."



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Cost of keeping ageing 'chimpnauts' in the style befitting heroes estimated at $100 million

US Air Force plans to retire forgotten space race veterans

By Anjana Ahuja

THE United States Air Force is planning to retire the forgotten veterans of the American space programme. Its decision could earn the 150 ageing chimpanzees a retirement package worth up to $100 million (£64 million), ensuring their final years are spent in a manner befitting would-be space heroes.

According to a draft legislative proposal to be submitted to Congress next month, the air force wants to decommission the chimps but is unhappy about the astronomical cost of nursing its former charges through their twilight years. It favours packing them off to an outside organisation that could care for them. Also mooted in the proposal is that the apes could be used for other — undoubtedly less distinguished — research. "We want to transfer the chimps and the facilities to an outside agency, because we foresee no need for them," confirmed Major Chris Geisel, a spokesman at the press office in the Pentagon. "Unfortunately, because of the cost involved, no other agencies seem willing to take them."

He added that estimates for their upkeep could cost up to $7 million a year. According to the Coulston Foundation, which is caring for the chimps, the average lifespan of a chimpanzee in the wild is 35 years. As the youngest among the colony is several years old, the total cost of caring could be $100 million. The oldest air force chimp, Jeb, has reached the grand old age of 55 and is thought to be the oldest surviving chimpanzee in captivity.

The next oldest was 45-year-old Samson, who rubbed shoulders with Ham and Enos, the only American chimps in space. Samson died a fortnight ago.

Although the 150 chimps were on standby in case their services were required, none actually left Earth. They are, however, the offspring of the ones that did fly in space. Among the first ape astronauts were Able and Baker, two rhesus monkeys who flew aboard the Jupiter rocket in 1959. Ham was the first chimpanzee astronaut (nicknamed chimpnaut), and was launched into a sub-orbital mission aboard a Mercury capsule in January 1961. Ham (which stood for Holloman Aero Med, because the chimps were trained at the Holloman air force base in New Mexico) became a national hero, and is buried in the International Space Hall of Fame in New Mexico. The second and last chimpnaut was Enos, who made his journey in November 1961, eight years before men walked on the Moon.

The chimpanzees were chosen because of their similarity to humans. "Chimps have a similar genetic make-up to humans and can be trained to perform tasks," Major Geisel said.

After the success of the space programme, and confirmation that man could survive in space, the air force decided that the chimps were no longer immediately useful but should be kept on hand. It leased them from 1970 for medical research into hepatitis and HIV. They passed in 1993 into the care of the Coulston Foundation, which looks after them and about 400 other chimpanzees in a $10 million luxury home at the Holloman base. The foundation's lease will expire in 1999.

The air force approached zoos to take over the upkeep of the chimps but were turned down. "They were not thought to be suitable because they were not sociable enough," explained Major Geisel. "Although chimpanzees are an endangered species, we cannot just return them to the wild because they are a closed population. We have had offers from people wanting to adopt them, but that is not viable because chimps can be quite aggressive." Major Geisel added that animal welfare laws prevented the chimps from being destroyed.

The animals are kept in large rooms in family groups and are fed biscuits, fresh fruit and vegetables. "They love bananas," said Dr Frederick Coulston, director of the foundation, who has a portrait of Ham on his wall. "And they go absolutely wild about lettuce and carrots."

Dr Coulston and his staff of 155 at the air base would like to take over caring for the chimps permanently. "The chimps are like family to us, and they feel very happy and comfortable here," he said. "But the animals are the property of the air force and therefore the property of America. We have to wait to see what Congress and the Senate feel about that."

Leading article, page 21

Reporter to visit Mir

Moscow: Russia and South Korea have been negotiating a plan to send a South Korean journalist on a space mission on board the Mir orbiting station, the Russian news agency Tass said yesterday.

The proposal came from South Korea's KBS broadcasting corporation earlier this year, Tass added, and the authorities are discussing the cost and timing of the flight which is tentatively scheduled to take place in the autumn of 1997 or early in 1998. (AP)

NASA/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY



Ham, the first American chimpanzee in space, reaches for an apple after splashing down off target in the Atlantic Ocean in January 1961



A rhesus monkey being fitted into a space suit

Dogs, ducks and rodents conquered the skies for mankind



Laika, the Soviet pioneer who was lost in space

By Giles Coren

WHILE chimpanzee veterans of the Nasa space programme have been lucky enough to escape the researcher's knife in retirement homes, their rodent friends, lower down the evolutionary chain, were not so lucky in a space shuttle mission two years ago.

On the flight of Columbia in October 1993, five of the 48 rats on board were decapitated without anaesthetic in what Nasa described as a procedure which promised "to give us the first opportunity to study the physical changes caused by microgravity". Apes, rats, frogs and dogs have died over the past 40 years for space science.

Today rehabilitation is the watchword. But the opinion of Laika, the Soviet dog which became the first canine in orbit in June 1956, will never be known. She was never recovered from space. Nor will the feelings of Hector the rat be any more traceable — he was the first French rodent in space, soaring 100 miles in 1961 and landing intact on Earth three minutes later. He died the following year of unrelated causes.

It was America which put the first ape in space, on December 14, 1958. Gordo, a 1lb squirrel monkey, was blasted 300 miles up in the nose cone of a Jupiter missile from Cape Canaveral. He travelled 1,700 miles and died over the South Atlantic.

On September 19, 1783, a dog, a duck and a cock took off in a Montgolfier balloon, the first animal aviators, from the gardens of Versailles in front of Louis XVI. Unlike the lucky primates, these three, no doubt, were consumed at the royal table with a glass of claret, in celebration of the dawn of flight.

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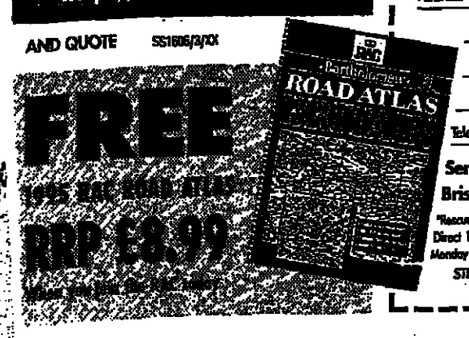
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Clinton praises British 'risks for peace' in Bosnia

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT CLINTON lavished praise on Britain's efforts in Bosnia during his visit to London yesterday as he continued to wage his campaign to persuade a hostile Congress to approve the deployment of 20,000 American troops to help to enforce the fragile new Balkan peace agreement.

Britain had taken "extraordinary risks for peace". Mr Clinton declared at a joint news conference with John Major on the steps of No 10. But he made no mention of past differences over Bosnia.

"The US deeply appreciates all this country has done to end the suffering in Bosnia — your brave soldiers who risked their lives as part of Unprofor, your countless humanitarian relief efforts to aid the people of that war-torn land, your diplomatic and military strength as members of the Contact Group and Nato."

Later, in an address to both Houses of Parliament broadcast live on American breakfast television, the President said Britain had already sacrificed much to help to bring peace to Bosnia and promised that America would "live up to its history and its ideals as well". If America failed to join the Nato force, "our leadership will be questioned and our partnerships will be weakened — partnerships we must have if we are to help each other in the fight against the common threats we face," he said.

The President told Mr Major during their talks that he was confident that he would ultimately prevail in persuading Congress to agree to deploy US troops in the Balkans. Britain is to be the second biggest contributor to the 60,000-strong Nato force, providing 13,000 troops. Without American participation, however, the operation will never take place.

But Mr Clinton appears determined to deploy troops, come what may. Without congressional approval, however, he would be taking an enormous political risk in the run-up to next year's presidential election.

Nato's historic peace enforcement operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina will begin early next week with the expected arrival of the first troops, including 350 from Britain, to start preparing for the arrival of the main force. Nato defence ministers, meeting at alliance headquarters in Brussels, agreed that an "enabling force" of 2,600 specialist troops should begin work immediately and that the bulk of the force must be in Bosnia within 30 days.

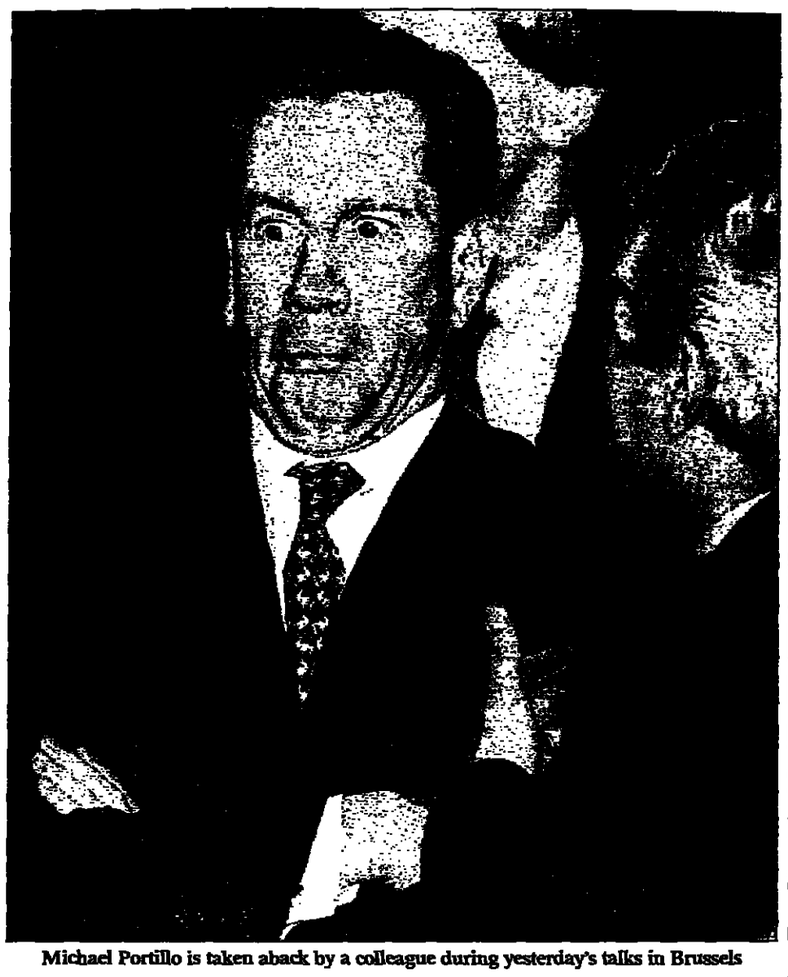
The need for a rapid deployment of troops was urged on the defence ministers by General George Joulwan, the American Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, who will be in overall charge of Operation Joint Endeavour, the mission's codename.

He said that thousands of Nato troops would have to be in place within 30 days because that was the period in which the warring parties were supposed to withdraw outside designated demilitarised zones under the peace agreement initialled at Dayton air base in Ohio last week.

The defence ministers also agreed that the Nato peace operation would last exactly a year. A British official said: "We agreed that we would all go in together, all work together and all leave together after 12 months."

In addition, the ministers backed a German proposal to start planning next year to increase the membership of the alliance. Although membership is not expected to be offered to countries from Central and Eastern Europe until at least 1998, Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister, suggested Nato should begin to lay the groundwork.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, pointed out that Russian involvement with Nato in the Bosnian peace implementation force would do more to improve understanding between Nato and Moscow, which has serious reservations about the eastward expansion of the alliance, than would a decade of discussions.



Michael Portillo is taken aback by a colleague during yesterday's talks in Brussels

Eurocorps is ready to go

Bonn: In a barracks outside Rheims in France, Eurocorps, Europe's fledgeling army, will declare itself ready for action today (Roger Boyes writes). However, its German commander, General Helmut Willmann, is careful not to call it the nucleus of a European army but a "model". It will be at the disposal of the Western European Union, Nato and the UN and its primary task may well be in disaster relief and in peacekeeping.

British convicts acquire taste for French 'porridge'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

SCORES of British citizens jailed in northern France could apply to serve their sentences in Britain, but prefer instead to stay in French prisons, partly because the food is superior.

The British inmates are in no hurry to swap their French cells for British ones "because the cuisine and the comfortable conditions in prisons are distinctly better in France than in Great Britain", according to one British diplomat.

More Britons are in jail for drugs offences in northern France than in either Thailand or Malaysia. Prisons in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais region contain about 137 British prisoners, 95 per cent of whom are serving sentences for drug trafficking.

The French authorities have had to adapt to the influx of British convicts. At Longuenesse prison, near St Omer, volunteer prison workers recently began taking courses in English in order to communicate with the 50 British prisoners jailed there, while the British consulate has provided textbooks and dictionaries to help the inmates to learn French.

Under the UK-France Transfer Treaty, Britons convicted in France can elect to serve their terms on native soil, but not one has chosen to do so in the past year.

The food may be one reason. Prison fare in France is delicious by British standards, even offering such delicacies as local cheeses and a daily ration of French beer.

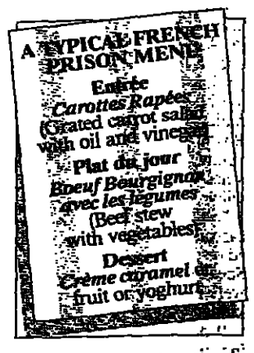
Gordon Williams, the British consul in Lille, recently visited Longuenesse and described the kitchen as very impressive. He said: "They even bring people in from outside to prepare the meals."

André Varignon, the deputy director of La Santé prison in Paris, said: "We serve classic French cooking: everything you can get on the outside, really." Such classic French puddings as *tarte de pommes* (apple tart) are served "rarely", not because they are considered too lavish but because they take too long to make, M Varignon said.

Breakfast does not include croissants, but inmates start the day with a *tartine* (bread and butter) and *café au lait*.

Some British prisoners, however, still complain about the cooking. "No matter how good the food, some people don't like it and say there is too much garlic," according to Duro Oluwo, of Prisoners Abroad, the London-based group that advises British detainees in foreign prisons.

"Some of these guys just want mash and chips," Mr Oluwo said, adding that while the standard of French prisons varies greatly they are generally "more modern and better equipped" than British ones.



But many British prisoners cannot afford to leave French prisons, even if they wanted to, because they must first pay French customs fines based on the street value of the drugs seized, often amounting to several million francs.

The relaxation of European border controls prompted a wave of drug trafficking, and last year the number of Britons held in continental jails grew by two-fifths.

While the food may be better, prison life in France is no picnic for Britons, who cannot speak French. As the magazine *L'Express* reported this week: "Arrested and convicted on French soil, these British citizens are then plunged into an isolation both penal and linguistic."

KGB agent says Moscow used aid money to pay its spies

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE KGB used aid money from the International Monetary Fund and other Western organisations in their last payment to Aldrich Ames, the former CIA officer who spent nearly a decade passing secrets to Moscow, according to a report that has sent tremors through the American intelligence community.

Ames, who pleaded guilty to spying for Moscow last year and is serving a life sentence, told American counter-intelligence officers last year that until 1993 the KGB had used old $100 bills as payment for his nine years as a CIA mole.

But in a meeting with his handler in Colombia in November 1993, documented in the CIA report published by *The Washington Times* yesterday, Ames received new notes in sequence amounting to $130,000 (£83,000). Yuri Karetkin, the KGB officer involved, said the money came from "aid money flowing into Russia from the IMF and other official sources". The cash was the last Ames received before his arrest in February last year.

A veteran counter-intelligence officer for 31 years, Ames first delivered documents to the KGB in 1985. They allowed Moscow to identify dozens of American and allied agents, at least ten of whom subsequently were executed while others vanished or were imprisoned. More than 100 intelligence operations inthe former Eastern bloc were closed down and two Russian military leaders, for more than a decade the most important sources for British and American intelligence, were exposed.

Ames's last payment has alarmed American intelligence agents who believe it may suggest that the KGB also used front companies in Russian joint ventures to obtain cash from American aid organisations. It may also obstruct attempts by the Clinton Administration to gain further money for Moscow from a congressional leadership opposed to foreign aid. President Clinton's priority in dealing with Russia has been to provide millions of dollars as an incentive to dismantle former Soviet nuclear weapons.

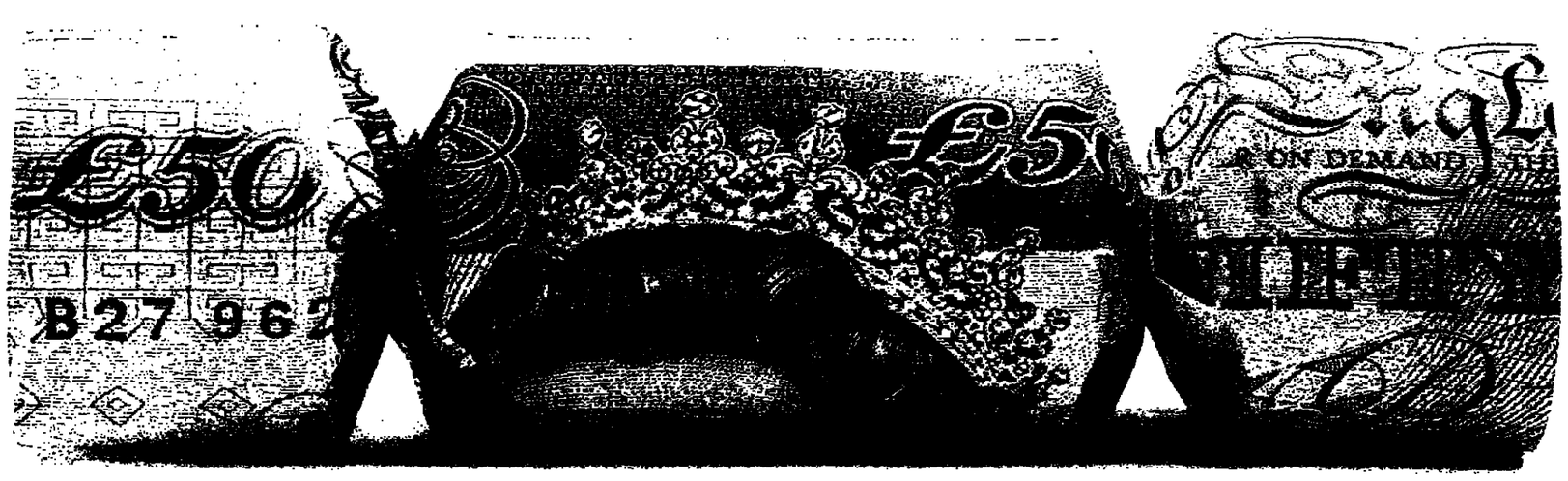
The IMF gave Russia $1.5 billion in 1993 and about $1 billion the previous year for debt relief after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

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Moi's scandal-hit Bull tormented by Kenyan MPs

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

KENYAN opposition MPs have called for the castration of the "Bull of Auckland" – a government official who was sent away from the recent Commonwealth heads of government meeting in New Zealand after allegedly indecently assaulting a chambermaid in his hotel bedroom. They have also identified him as Nicholas Biwott, a former Energy Minister.

The accusation against the close friend and business associate of President Moi was followed by foot-stamping from opposition MPs who shouted down Mr Biwott's attempts to "protest in the strongest possible terms".

During a lively emergency debate on the alleged incident in Auckland, Lawrence Sifuna, an opposition MP, said he had been telephoned by the husband of the chambermaid. The man said that Mr Biwott, a leading light of the ruling Kenya African National Union, had attacked his wife.

"Shame. Shame. We want to castrate the Bull," MPs shouted before being silenced by the Speaker, who told them they were in parliament and "not a kindergarten".

"I don't know what is exciting members," said Francis ole Kaporo, the Speaker. Unable to resist responding to the unintentional pun, opposition MPs replied: "The Bull". Kalonzo Musyoka, the Foreign Minister, refused to confirm or deny that Mr Biwott had been sent from Auckland to wait for the rest of the Kenyan delegation in Singapore. According to the Kenyan press, a grinning Mr Musyoka said that the accusations against Mr Biwott were "character assassination".

The parliamentary allegation is the latest in a series of scandals surrounding Mr Biwott, who so far has managed to emerge with his relationship to the President intact. The wealthy former holder of the industry and energy portfolios has been the source of diplomatic embarrassment to President Moi in the past. Although a member of Mr Moi's entourage during his last visit to Britain, he was barred from a luncheon at the Confederation of British Industry and sent away fuming.



Biwott: survived a series of scandals

The Kenyan Foreign Minister insisted that the privacy of the alleged victim was being protected, and said the alleged attacker should have the same right.

But Mr Musyoka has his work cut out in defending Kenya's international reputation, which has taken a hammering in recent months through a surge in crime. Two British Embassy staff have been wounded in carjackings and the Indian High Commissioner was almost killed during an armed robbery on his official residence. There has also been a government crackdown on opposition leaders and human rights lawyers.

Opposition MPs, many of whom have been subjected to police torture since Kenya was democratised in 1991, have used early-day motions to embarrass the Government and raise issues of corruption.

The results have raised parliamentary tensions. Last week Otieno K'Opiyo, an opposition MP, exchanged blows in the chamber with David Sankori, a ruling party member, who had called him a "con man" during an emergency debate.



Citizens of Johannesburg join hands in solidarity yesterday against what is seen as a tidal wave of violent crime

South Africans protest at rising violence

FROM REUTER IN JOHANNESBURG

THOUSANDS of South Africans stood for a minute's silence yesterday to mourn victims of violent crime. Soon afterwards, a lorry driver shot a policemen dead in a traffic dispute.

About 3,000 people turned out in Johannesburg, one of the cities worst affected by crime. In Cape Town, where only about 30 people joined religious leaders marching in the rain, William Bantom, the Mayor, called on the national and Western Cape Governments to take tough action against criminals. "We demand urgent action. Act now and act tough on criminals," he said, echoing a view that President Mandela's administration was soft on criminals, a criticism that the Government denies.

Small marches, protests and silences took place in cities and towns across the country. The Rhema Church, which organised the anti-crime day, said it had been hampered by the state South African Broadcasting Corporation's refusal to allow it airtime to televise public appeals for support. Newspapers said the corporation had decided as it did because the advertising campaign was too violent, the characters portrayed suggested that only blacks were involved in crime and that only the Government was held responsible for tackling crime.

About 50 people die every day in violent crimes in South Africa, where the commercial centre, Johannesburg, and the Indian Ocean port of Durban have been dubbed the world's murder capitals.

Apartheid inquiry to be led by Tutu

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu has been appointed by President Mandela to head the controversial Truth and Reconciliation Commission which is soon to begin investigating human rights violations committed during South Africa's apartheid era.

The Nobel Prize winner's appointment was announced yesterday by Jakes Gerwel, the Cabinet Secretary. He said the formation of the 17 commissioners marked "an important stage in this historic process of coming to an understanding of our past ... conflict-ridden society".

Given that the Anglican cleric is highly respected across the racial spectrum, it was an expected and popular choice. Even so, he has taken on perhaps the most testing challenge of his career. Archbishop Tutu, a close friend of the South African President, is seen to be above party politics and has not shied away from criticising the ANC-led Government.

The commission will sift through more than 10,000 cases involving murder, torture and a range of abuses. It will decide whether to prosecute or grant amnesties. Its members include Chris de Jager, a former right-wing Conservative Party MP, whose appointment was opposed by the Human Rights Coalition because of his political background.

Muslims claim poll abuses in Egypt

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

PARLIAMENTARY elections in Egypt turned yesterday into a showdown between the ruling National Democrat Party, headed by President Mubarak, and the outlawed but previously tolerated Muslim Brotherhood.

Despite certainty that the National Democrats will maintain their two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, with 444 seats up for election, the Government ordered a crackdown on the Brotherhood and other candidates which went on as polling started.

Egyptian officials said that Mr Mubarak, who narrowly survived an Islamic assassination attempt in June, was determined to avoid a repetition of the situation in Algeria. There, Islamic militants gained legitimacy after unexpected gains in the first round of an election which, after it was annulled, degenerated into civil war. As polls closed last night, one man had been shot dead and 60 injured in nationwide scuffles, clashes and shootouts.

Electoral abuses claimed by the Brothers and allied Islamic candidates included the round-up of more than 600 activists and agents, detention of candidates by police, the barring of fair-play election monitors from hundreds of polling stations, and manipulation of electoral registers by the ruling party.

It was alleged that in one constituency where the brother of Atef Sedki, the veteran Prime Minister, was a candidate, boys of 16, two years under voting age, were openly casting their ballots.

A spokesman for the Islamicist-dominated Labour Party alleged that, by striving to prevent the 150 Islamic candidates winning, the Government could drive young Egyptians into the arms of militants advocating violence.

Tourists return to the Nile

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

EGYPT announced with relief yesterday that tourism was up by nearly a fifth this year, despite Islamic fundamentalist attacks. After two ruinous years, the country registered 2.6 million visitors between January and October.

The figures from the Tourism Ministry are taken by the Government as justification for its drive against Islamic militants since the militants' campaign to rid Egypt of its tourists and foreign businessman was launched in 1992. More than 60 militants have been executed, curfews have been imposed, thousands have been detained and, according to human rights monitors, torture has become routine.

During this time, militants have killed eight tourists, most of them Europeans, and injured 60, prompting a slump in revenues conservatively estimated at £2 billion.

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Britain isolated on three key issues in leaked EU paper

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

BRITAIN is set for conflict with its European partners at next year's follow-up conference on the Maastricht treaty, judging from the recommendations of a European Union "reflection group" published in Germany yesterday.

The document, "Strategy for Europe", will be completed this week and submitted to EU leaders at the Madrid summit later next month.

Britain is isolated on majority voting, the powers of the European Parliament and common foreign policy. On some issues, such as the integration of the Western European Union into the European Union, it shares its dissenting view with a few other member states. While these differences were expected, the document does highlight the failure of the "reflection group" to develop any but the most general of common recommendations.

The document, leaked to the reliable *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)*, does not identify Britain by name but repeatedly refers to the disagreement of "a member". The *FAZ* says this is an unambiguous reference to David Davis, the Minister for European Union.

The majority of the group regarded it as desirable to extend majority voting in the Council of Ministers, to extend the rights of the Strasbourg Parliament to create a more effective common foreign policy, and to hand over many responsibilities for interior and justice issues to the Union. "A member" disagreed. The document says that "many of us" believed qualified majority voting should be used more frequently and as a general principle when the Union was enlarged. "Some members" believed qualified majority voting should be used in foreign and security policy. "One member is opposed as a matter of principle to such an extension," says the document in a clear reference to Britain.

It was unanimously agreed that there should be a joint foreign policy analysis and policy unit. All agreed that developing a European defence identity was desirable, in so far as it strengthened the Atlantic alliance. "This appears to have been unanimously agreed," says the *FAZ*, "but only a majority is in favour of strengthening the relations between the European Union and the WEU: the British representative did not belong to that majority and neither did the representatives of some of the neutral countries."

Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, fired another shot across French bows yesterday when he emphasised that entry to the European monetary union could only be decided in early 1998 on the basis of "hard substantial facts" from the year 1997, and not on earlier estimates.

"Anything else is not acceptable," he said in a tough statement delivered to the German parliamentary budget committee. France has unsuccessfully tried to insist that the decision be taken at the end of 1997 in order to avoid the controversial vote on which countries join the single currency occurring during the general election in the spring of 1998.

The minister set out the German timetable for monetary union in some detail. By next year he hoped for a common European approval of his proposal for a "stability pact" aimed at enforcing fiscal discipline on member states after entry to the EMU. The final decision on who was in and who was out of the EMU would come "as early as possible" in the year 1998. "A decision taken before 1998 would give rise to great uncertainty," said the minister, alluding to French demands that a decision be taken at the end of 1997 on the basis of economic forecasts.

Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank president, addressing the same committee, emphasised yesterday that aspiring members of the EMU should abide by every one of the Maastricht conditions — and that included a minimum two-year membership of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. Another essential condition, he said, was that an aspiring member state should have a fully independent central bank.



Plisetskaya acknowledges applause after dancing in *Swan Lake* at the Bolshoi



Plisetskaya: "to hell with those who say I should retire"

Ballet star turns 70 on Bolshoi stage

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

MAIYA PLISETSKAYA, the Bolshoi Theatre's most famous star, celebrated her 70th birthday this week by carrying on dancing on her favourite stage.

On Tuesday night at the Bolshoi, her main concession to age was to dance the less demanding dying swan of Saint-Saëns, not that of Tchaikovsky. But with her green eyes, red hair and slight build, she still made a powerful presence and the audience gave her stormy ovations and cascades of red roses.

Critics have lamented her decision to go on dancing, but she has ignored them. "To hell with those who say I should retire," she said five years ago. "I am an artist, and as long as I can communicate through my artistry I will continue to perform."

President Yeltsin, who is in a sanatorium outside Moscow, sent his apologies and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, kissed her on both cheeks before presenting her with a medal "For Services to the Fatherland". In Soviet days the Government named a planet after her.

She is not nostalgic for the Soviet Bolshoi. Her biography *I, Maiya Plisetskaya*, is full of biting characterisations. She left the theatre in 1989 and lives in Munich.

Santer vents his wrath on Kinnock

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

JACQUES SANTER, the President of the European Commission, yesterday rebuked Neil Kinnock, the EU Transport Commissioner and former Labour Party leader, suggesting that weak character explained his recent public dissent on key EU doctrines.

Mr Santer's unusual swipe at one of his colleagues reflected the dismay caused in Brussels by the speech last week in which Mr Kinnock said it was unrealistic to expect monetary union to be launched on schedule in 1999 and that the Union was bungling its approach to new members from the East.

It was time to replace loose talk with more effective action, Mr Santer said, commenting on the climate of doubt as European leaders prepared to settle the final timetable for EMU at their summit in Madrid next month. Asked about demands yesterday in the European Parliament for Mr Kinnock's resignation, Mr Santer noted that the 20-member Commission was a college of equals, but it was his job as President to present its policy. "If there is one member of the college who hesitates, or expresses scepticism on certain points, I can only say that he may not have a strong enough personality to prevail in the college."



Santer: tried later to soften his criticism

Later, Mr Santer sought to soften the impact of his criticism. The British Commissioner's remarks were "damaging to the policy and purpose upheld by the College of Commissioners," he said. "I do not consider, however, that Neil Kinnock has a weak personality". He is a "very active, co-operative and efficient Commissioner, and I look foward to further working together," added Mr Santer.

While Mr Kinnock, a strong supporter of EMU, was only voicing thoughts which are widespread in Europe, his decision to utter them at a meeting of businessmen in Berkshire is seen as undermining the Commission's job as guardian of the purity of the Union's central project. Another Briton, Bernard Connolly, has been suspended from his post as a senior Commission official and is awaiting a disciplinary tribunal for denouncing the whole EMU scheme in his book, *The Rotten Heart of Europe*.

In combative mood, Mr Santer tried to sweep aside the doubters, saying: "EMU is firmly on the rails". He urged Union leaders to end the suspense over a name for the future currency. This was vital for winning public acceptance, he said.

The Commission also set out a scheme yesterday for a successor to the Exchange Rate Mechanism which would link the currencies of EMU member states to those of the non-members. The Commission hoped that, if Britain exercised its opt-out and stayed away from EMU, it would still take part in the new system.

WORLD SUMMARY

Parents of dingo baby seek ruling

Sydney: An inquest into the disappearence of nine-week-old Azaria Chamberlain resumed yesterday to rule formally on the circumstances (Vivienne Horner writes).

Azaria's parents Lindy and Michael Chamberlain claim that she was taken by a dingo at a campsite at Ayer's Rock in 1980. Her body has never been found. The couple has asked the coroner to rule that a dingo took their baby and clear them of involvement. The case has already been the subject of two inquests, a trial, two appeals and a special inquiry.

Maccabee tomb 'misidentified'

Jerusalem: Archaeologists said they had misidentified a tomb recently uncovered in Israel as that of a member of the Maccabees, a Jewish family whose rebellion inspired the Hanukkah holiday. Discovery of the burial site, during road-widening work, caused protests by tens of thousands of Orthodox Jews who claimed that the archaeologists were defiling Jewish graves. *(Reuter)*

Israeli jets raid border hideouts

Jerusalem: Israeli aircraft launched fresh raids on Islamic guerrilla hideouts in southern Lebanon in retaliation for rocket attacks along the border (Ross Dunn writes). There were no reports of casualties. Extra troops and several Israeli tanks were sent to the area. On Tuesday, Hezbollah guerrillas bombarded Galilee, wounding eight Israelis.

Cabinet meets as Papandreou is put on life-support machine

FROM MALCOLM BRABANT IN ATHENS

THE Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, was yesterday clinging to life on a life-support machine.

As doctors denied that he was clinically dead, senior members of the Cabinet held an unscheduled meeting, ostensibly to discuss "education and social problems" but most probably to confront the succession issue from which, until now, they have shied away.

An American nutritionist was sent to Athens to try to help the Socialist leader, 76, to regain some of the 13lb he has lost from his emaciated frame since he was admitted to intensive care with pneumonia 11 days ago. Apparently Mr Papandreou's immune systems were collapsing, with his kidneys and lungs, making it difficult for him to fight off infection.

"The health of the Prime Minister has taken a turn for the worse and we have been forced to use a kidney machine and subsequently a respirator to support his breathing," a statement from his team of 24 doctors said yesterday.

Professor Gregory Skalkeas, of the Onassis Heart Centre, said, however: "The Prime Minister's brain and heart are functioning well. He is not clinically dead."

An army of senior government officials and party activists have set up camp in the Prime Minister's hospital, establishing what amounts to a parliamentary annexe, with Mr Papandreou's closest aides visiting him in relays round the clock.

Nearly all the 169 deputies of the Socialist Party (Pasok) that he founded 21 years ago have filed by his hospital bed, as have opposition figures.

Sources at the Prime Minister's official residence described the situation as grave but were clinging to the hope that he might recover.

Mr Papandreou's wife Mimi, 40, left the intensive care unit for the hospital chapel to light a candle for him early yesterday. In better times today, when hundreds of thousands of Andreases of Greek origin are celebrating St Andrew's Day, would have been a time of celebration for the Papandreou family. In Greece the name day is more important for Orthodox Christians than a birthday.

One Pasok member outside the hospital said yesterday: "I am ready to give [the Prime Minister] all of my organs as long as he lives."

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Suu Kyi decides to boycott junta's democracy talks

FROM ABBY TAN IN RANGOON

THE main Burmese opposition group yesterday pulled out of a national convention drafting a constitution, further straining ties with the military regime bent on staying in power.

Aung Sun Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy, announced, however, that she was keeping the doors open for dialogue with the junta to ensure a democratic process in writing the new basic law that will be acceptable to the Burmese people.

The league said it would not be attending the national convention "until such time as the dialogue with a view to achieving national reconciliation, genuine multi-party democracy and a constitution that can win the support and confidence of the people has been successfully put into effect".

At a packed press conference at her lakeside home, attended by diplomats and the international press which converged in Rangoon to monitor a tense week in Burmese opposition politics, Daw Suu Kyi demanded: "If the league is not allowed to represent the views of the people, then why was the election held in 1990?"

The league won a majority of the legislature seats in that election, only to be nullified by the junta known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council. The council cracked down on the pro-democracy movement and put Daw Suu Kyi under house arrest for six years until her unconditional release in July.

The council responded to the opposition move in a low-key manner. The statement published in government media said the national convention will continue business as usual without the league.

The Government accused the league of trying to disrupt the convention, saying the boycott was "tantamount to totally forsaking and going against the national interests". Daw Suu Kyi repeatedly denied at her press conference she was seeking confrontation, but blamed the junta for refusing to talk to her on the restoration of democracy.

"Their refusal to dialogue is far more confrontational," said Daw Suu Kyi, 50, who won the Nobel peace prize in 1991 while in prison. She said she always believed in "give and take". She specifically called on her followers not to take to the streets.

Security was tightened outside the homes of three top league leaders last night after the boycott. The boycott capped what analysts saw as four frustrating months for the celebrated dissident whose freedom was meaningless to her as the junta continued to ignore her, and refused to start dialogue with her.

The league made the decision to boycott the convention after the Government did not acknowledge opposition concerns that the procedures for drafting the law were undemocratic as the party delegates were not allowed to discuss issues freely.

Last week Daw Suu Kyi issued a warning that the procedures were unacceptable. The national convention had been drafting a new constitution for three years. But when it reconvened on Tuesday, the league delegates walked out after the chairman of the convention, a ranking army general, did not respond to the concerns.

Analysts feel Daw Suu Kyi has to resort to lobbying the international community again — as she did for her release — to put pressure on the junta. At her press conference she urged the world community to support the United Nations resolution calling on the junta to open a dialogue with the opposition.



Daw Suu Kyi meets supporters after the press conference in Rangoon yesterday

China's challenge gives Tibet two Panchen Lamas

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA set the stage for a potentially divisive battle with the Dalai Lama for the loyalties of Tibetan Buddhists yesterday after it selected a six-year-old boy as the next Panchen Lama over the choice of Tibet's spiritual head.

A religious ceremony was held — bizarrely by the atheist Chinese authorities — to pick the boy as the new Panchen Lama at the Jokhang in Lhasa, one of the Tibetan capital's holiest shrines. His name was drawn from a golden urn in front of a statue of the Buddha "in strict accordance with the rituals of Tibetan Buddhism", the official New China News Agency said.

The Dalai Lama, in May, had identified another six-year-old boy, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, as the reincarnation of the tenth Panchen Lama, who had died in January 1989. The Panchen Lama is traditionally the second most influential leader after the Dalai Lama.

The boy picked by the Dalai Lama is believed to be detained in Peking. China has refused to comment on his whereabouts. "He could be poisoned or eliminated in some other way," said a foreign Buddhist devotee in Peking last night.

Whatever his fate, Tibet now has two Panchen Lamas, one blessed by the Dalai Lama, still regarded as a god-king by Tibetans, and one approved by China, the powerful rulers of Tibet.

At the ceremony in the Jokhang yesterday, scene of past clashes between Tibetans loyal to the Dalai Lama and Chinese police, Gyaincain Norbu was picked as Peking's Panchen Lama. He was selected from among three candidates, none of whom had the blessing of the Dalai Lama.

"A situation where there are two Panchen Lamas has obviously the potential to provoke trouble and, is a possible formula for unrest," said a foreign diplomat here.

The Dalai Lama's government-in-exile in northern India said Peking's choice of Panchen Lama should be rejected as a "pretender". "The Chinese controlling Tibet have the power to do what they like, but for the Tibetans this is not acceptable," it said.

Foreign diplomats say China believes that controlling the Panchen Lama will strengthen its rule and that eventually it hopes to select the next Dalai Lama, thus eliminating the focal point of opposition to its oppressive rule in Tibet.

Neither Peking nor the Dalai Lama is likely to back down in the clash, which mirrors periods in the late Middle Ages when the Catholic Church had two Popes, say the diplomats. "Both sides have painted themselves into a corner," said one envoy.

Britons' drugs trial is delayed for tenth time

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

THE drugs trial of a British couple Sandra Gregory and Robert Lock in Thailand failed to go ahead again yesterday after being adjourned for the tenth time to allow a witness to appear.

Journalists and British Embassy officials attending the hearing in Bangkok were told that the manager of Bangladesh Biman airlines had failed to appear again despite the threat of arrest.

His continuing failure to appear has delayed the trial for more than six months. It means that Miss Gregory, of Sowerby Bridge, and Mr Lock, of Cambridge, have been awaiting trial for over two-and-a-half years.

They are charged with trafficking in 89 grams of heroin. Mr Lock, 30, has pleaded not guilty; Miss Gregory has pleaded guilty.

They were arrested at Bangkok's Don Muang airport in February 1993 as they were about to board a Biman Airlines flight to Tokyo.

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Risk factors for pneumonia ☐ GPs warned on splenectomy ☐ Effects of cannabis use

Season of bad chests



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

The deteriorating condition of the Greek Prime Minister, Andreas Papandreou, since being admitted to hospital for treatment for pneumonia is no surprise. Some particular features in a patient's past medical history point to a bad prognosis if he or she later develops a severe chest infection, acute bronchitis or pneumonia. So far as these possibly adverse factors are concerned, Mr Papandreou holds a nearly full hand. The Prime Minister is known to have suffered from previous cardiovascular problems. Even a rapid heart rate or high blood pressure in a patient may be enough to weigh the scales against an uneventful recovery. He has impaired renal function, is well into his seventies and has previously had severe chest infections. Dr Robert Wilson, of the Royal Brompton and National Heart and Lung Institute in London, has written about the pointers to a bad prognosis in cases of bronchitis and pneumonia in the medical journal *Update*.

Mr Papandreou will not be alone in his troubles. This is the season when pneumonia frequently complicates flu, and respiratory tract infections once again become medically important, since in recent years the organisms in our lungs have become more varied, more virulent, and better at resisting the standard antibiotics.

In general practice it is impossible to culture the sputum of all patients with bronchitis or pneumonia and it is recommended that they should be treated empirically, but not of course haphazardly. The doctor has to decide before prescribing the antibiotic which organism is likely to be causing the infection, and its probable response to any antibiotic, as well as making a judgment on the patient's natural resistance to an infection; for past history, as in Mr Papandreou's case, will also have a fundamental effect on the outcome.

Dr Wilson recommends that patients with a simple bronchitis, or a persistent productive cough from tracheo-bronchitis left over from a cold or flu, will probably respond to such basic antibiotics as amoxycillin, erythromycin, trimethoprim or tetracyclines. Conversely those who have severe chronic bronchitis, chronic bronchial sepsis, or more than three recent attacks of bronchitis — particularly if any of these conditions are associated with other medical problems — need the more expensive, but more effective, modern antibiotics. These include such preparations as Zithromax (azithromycin), Klaracid (clarithromycin) and Augmentin (amoxycillin/clavulanate). The more long-lasting the bronchitis and the more mucus present, the less efficient is the antibiotic at penetrating it and the bronchial tubes to which it adheres. The quinolone antibiotics are good at penetrating mucus, but are not suitable for treating pneumonia if there is any chance that it might be caused by pneumococci.

Klaracid and Zithromax are increasingly used in general practice as they are also effective against *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, an organism which, until recently, rarely figured in pathology reports, but is now not only associated with chronic bronchitis and pneumonia but is also found in the lungs of patients who develop angina — as well as in victims of strokes and transient ischaemic attacks.

People with no spleen need extra care

Surgeons are more reluctant to remove damaged spleens than they were ten years ago. Evidence has accumulated that the spleen is an important part of the body's immune system and that without it patients are much more likely to succumb to infection which others would shrug off.

So long as people drive cars, play contact sports, ski, climb mountains or ride, some spleens will inevitably be damaged beyond repair, leaving the surgeons no option other than to take them out.

The Department of Health has advised family doctors that all patients over the age of two without a spleen should be immunised with pneumonococcal vaccine which needs boosting every five years. They should also have injections against Hib and vaccination against meningitis A and C. Up to the age of 16 they should be taking antibiotics regularly and thereafter have easy access to them, so that they may be started immediately in the event of a bacterial infection.

This week's *General Practitioner* magazine gives warning that the two principal insurance companies providing protection for GPs against negligence claims have advised that doctors may be considered negligent if they do not take these steps to protect a patient who has had his spleen removed.

A survey carried out in South Buckinghamshire, where doctors have been encouraged to ensure that their asplenic patients are immunised, has shown that more than 80 per cent of the patients are now aware of the dangers and have been correctly vaccinated.

Red faces in an Ambridge household

The pharmacological effect of cannabis has become a talking point in *The Archers*. After the new boyfriend of the Aldridges' wayward daughter, Kate, added some of the drug to the casserole they fed to the older generation, the most striking effect, other than loss of inhibition, seemed to be a bright red face.

If the cannabis had been smoked rather than taken in the stew, there would be a much better chemical explanation for the change in complexion. The increase in the amount of carboxyhaemoglobin, which turns the blood bright red and diminishes its oxygen-carrying powers, is, according to a report in the journal *Thorax*, five times as great after smoking cannabis as it is after smoking tobacco.

The *BMJ*, commenting on the report, makes a plea for further investigations. If cannabis smoking can be shown to diminish the oxygen supply to people with intellectual impairment or chest or cardiovascular disease, the results would be serious.

Hot fluids, with or without cannabis, increase flushing, and if there is any tendency to acne rosacea, a chronic inflammatory disorder of the nose, cheek, chin and forehead, this will become more obvious. The recommended treatment for rosacea is with antibiotics taken either by mouth or applied as an antimicrobial gel, Metrogel. Diet makes no difference to rosacea; cutting out rich foods would not, in the long-term, be any more useful than avoiding Kate's hot stew.



TONY STONE

Trying to figure it out: difficulties in learning to do simple arithmetic can turn some children off the study of mathematics for the rest of their lives

Crunching numbers

John O'Leary on dyscalculia, the new learning difficulty hindering bright children

Alex Sebley is 6ft 3in tall and heading, he hopes, for art college. People find it difficult to believe that this strapping, articulate young man of 16 has the mathematical ability of a nine-year-old.

Yet Alex's little-known handicap has dogged his school career and led his mother Diana into a lengthy battle with education bureaucrats. Psychologists have diagnosed dyscalculia, or mathematical dyslexia, but the local authority remains unconvinced. The dispute reaches a climax next week when Alex again stands to lose the extra support he receives at school.

A century after dyslexia was discovered it has at last become accepted that significant numbers of otherwise intelligent people struggle with the basics of literacy. But no such consensus exists in the realms of numeracy. Research is said to be 15 years behind that for language dyslexia, and those who cannot master the simplest arithmetic are simply dismissed as slow learners.

For many, however, the knack never comes. Number bonds that are second nature to pupils of similar intelligence never develop, tables refuse to stick and basic arithmetical processes remain a mystery. Even if sufferers move on to more advanced mathematical concepts, as many do, they are handicapped by an inability to complete simple tasks.

With hindsight, Alex suffered from number-blindness from his earliest days at school. But it was only when he applied to join his brother at Portsmouth Grammar School that alarm bells were sounded. The school warned his family of probable learning difficulties, which were confirmed subsequently by his middle school.

"I was never much good at maths, so I didn't think anything of it when he fell behind at first," Mrs Sebley says. "But he has never really progressed. Even though his IQ is above average, he still cannot use a digital clock."

Like many education authorities, however, Hampshire has pared its "special needs" provision to the bone, and is reluctant to provide extra tuition except for the most backward. Alex's "statement" — his passport to specialist teaching — has been withdrawn once — until Mrs Sebley got a barrister to put his case at a tribunal. If tomorrow's review results in another removal, she is threatening an injunction.

"People think he sounds perfectly all right, and won't accept that there's anything the matter with him," Mrs Sebley says. "But although his reading has improved, he just doesn't see numbers. They could be Greek to him."

Like other mathematical strugglers, Alex has poor short-term memory and particular difficulty with spelling. Sufferers tend to forget basic procedures such as how to subtract. Many suffer from the dyslexic's classic confusion of left and right.

Dyslexia specialists reel off similar cases. At Essex University, for example, Professor Christine Temple treated twins with IQs in the top 5 per cent of their age group, but who could not multiply four fours without going through a tortuous process.

Professor Temple believes talented mathematicians are being lost to the subject because their dyscalculia is not recognised before they become disheartened. "The difficulty they have is with a very simple logical element of arithmetic," she told Radio 4's *All in the Mind* last month. "They can still be quite gifted ... particularly in areas where geometrical skills or the ability to design in three dimensions are more important."

The experts differ on the existence of a discrete condition affecting mathematical competence alone, but few doubt that some form of dyslexia is impairing the mathematical development of thousands of young people.

Professor Tim Miles, of the University of Wales, Bangor, one of the leading academics in the field, says that at least two-thirds of dyslexics have difficulty with mathematics. But he is wary of elevating the condition into a new *cause célèbre*. "I think that fancy labels like dyscalculia can be unhelpful: neurologists have found nothing that selectively affects mathematics. I prefer to look at it as another symptom of dyslexia."

Whatever the label, there is no doubt the condition can be overcome. At the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre, in Frensham, Surrey, for example, teachers employ a "multi-sensory" approach to learning, using puzzles, contrasting colours and even building blocks to help sufferers to make the basic connections.

The Maths 100 foundation, which runs extracurricular courses, also claims a high level of success with the growing numbers of children referred to its clubs. The foundation finds that conventional remedial teaching, relying on reading and continual practice, does not work. Only painstaking explanation, using apparatus and diagrams at every stage, will make a lasting difference.

Cheryl Maiden, Maths 100's head of schools, says: "We see a range of cases, from those with a physical eye problem to hyperactive children and those who have a specific problem with maths. It is very easy for primary teachers to spot, but they simply are not trained to do it at the moment. Parents can pick it up, but they have to exercise caution because it is becoming fashionable."

The Dyslexia Institute, which assesses almost 6,000 children and adults each year, now includes mathematical testing in the process. Liz Brooks, the executive director, says: "Over half of the people referred to us have difficulties with maths. Whether they are specific to maths or part of a continuum of difficulties is impossible to say from the research. They are usually not so devastating as literacy problems, but they can still cause distress."

● Spotting the problem
Common symptoms of mathematical dyslexia, which usually appear around the age of eight, include:
Early hearing difficulty
Left/right confusion
Inability to spot number patterns, such as odd and even numbers
Difficulty in learning tables
Printing letters or numbers in the wrong order
Confusing numbers or writing them the wrong way round
Poor spelling
Unnaturally slow and/or erratic work
Poor mental arithmetic and estimation skills

● The next step
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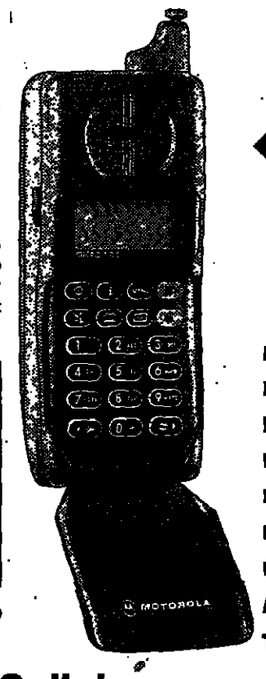
● Where to go for advice
Dyslexia Institute: 01784 463851; Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre: 01252 792400; Maths 100: 01491 411686.

INSIDE SECTION 2
Darling, you were wonderful ... or perhaps not. Branagh's new film about ghastly lovers is reviewed on page 35

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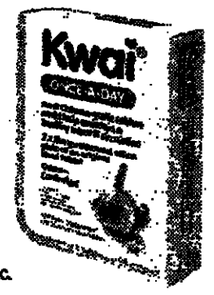
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The joke that nearly ruined my life



Valerie Grove hears Gerald Ratner's plans to put *that* remark firmly behind him



CHRIS HARRIS

Off the gold standard: Gerald Ratner wants to get back into the business but his wife, Moira, wonders if he is "completely nuts"

Christmas is coming, and Gerald Ratner is getting twitchy. He longs to get back into the sparkle business. In the jewellery trade Christmas is crucial: the one time you can make a real killing. It is exactly three years since he resigned from the jewellery chain that bore his name, and he now has to watch his old company (renamed Signet) languishing in the doldrums, reporting a £21 million loss in the last half-year.

And he knows better than anyone that if it had not been for a single word — used routinely by the younger generation to describe a film, a hamburger or a T-shirt they dislike — he would still be flogging the gold stuff in Christmas presentation boxes.

I rather expected him to be a wide-boy wearing gold chains but Ratner, at home in his sunny house at Bray, wears nothing that glisters except a white gold Rolex. "I'm not mad about gold on men," he says. "I was never excited by jewellery. For me it was purely the excitement of the business, of selling."

It was in 1949, the year he was born, that his father started a jewellery shop in the London suburbs. Gerald, one of four children, the only boy, was outspoken even then. He was only 13, and at Hendon Grammar School, when at a teacher's funeral he boldly asked the aged headmaster why he didn't just stay at the crematorium. Already in trouble, he was expelled.

He didn't mind: he just wanted to leave school and all that (sorry) crap, and work in one of his father's jewellery shops. He had a flair for salesmanship: he was overjoyed to be out of school and good at giving customers the hard sell. "I'm quite a persuasive character and I enjoyed selling." And he already had ideas about jewellery shops. They moved into Oxford Street when he was 18 and he saw how fast the street traders could move their stock just by flagrant patter.

"Until those days, jewellery shops had always been dim, daunting places which people entered once or twice a lifetime: when they got married, and when they needed a retirement watch. It drove me mad. I was very frustrated."

When his father retired the business was losing money. "Samuel's had bought 20 per cent of us, and I thought 'I'm not going to be managing director for very long unless we do something'. And it had to be something dramatic. Burton and Next were doing phenomenal business and we were not getting the disposable income on a Saturday afternoon, we weren't part of the boom. I felt very left out of things. Other people were doing it: Terry Jordan was selling, and a jeweller called Robert Anthony was flourishing in Newcastle. I got there early one morning and found people queuing at his doors. Get the right product at the right price, and I knew we could do volume business. We had to lower our prices. Nobody was going to buy a £500 ring on impulse on a Saturday afternoon. We had 5,000 lines and we changed every one of them.

> 'No job, no payoff but he still went to the Caribbean'

"What we tuned into was gold chains and earrings. It was within people's reach to buy gold stuff instead of a belt or shoes, if they had twenty quid in their pocket. The 99p earrings were a bit of a loss leader, but people realised they could walk into a jeweller's with under a pound, instead of waiting until they had £1,000"

On the old Jack Cohen of Tesco's motto of "pile it high and sell it cheap" wares were blazoned on garish posters on shopfronts and incentive prizes offered to managers who sold most. And all went swimmingly. Ratner became the biggest jeweller in the world. He lived in The Grove, Highgate, a neighbour of Yehudi Menuhin and other grandees.

And then, in April 1991, he spoke at the Institute of Directors' annual convention at the Albert Hall. How, he asked rhetorically, could Ratner's sell a cut-glass sherry decanter and six glasses on a silver tray for £4.95? "Because it is total crap."

"The amazing thing was, I had made that joke so many times before. It had even appeared in the *Financial Times* in 1987. Everybody laughed at it. Goldman Sachs used to offer a Ratner's sherry decanter for the most efficient stock market analyst. I worked it into my act, whenever I did presentations or speeches. It always went down well."

For his Albert Hall appearance, he had prepared a straight and rather dull speech. Someone told him people expected jokes. So he slipped in the earring that cost less than a prawn sandwich, and the crap sherry decanter. "And suddenly the tabloids went berserk, it all turned very nasty — and the rest is history."

There were cartoons, jokes, comments in *The Sun* like "Spring is here, the leaves are turning green, and Gerald's jewellery is turning green." Ken Dodd would say: "All I had was a Ratner's St Christopher to protect me . . ." No best man's wedding speech was complete without a Ratner's joke. The nation guffawed.

At first, the impact of this avalanche of mockery was negligible. But people look in a jeweller's window six weeks before they buy: within six weeks of the fatal speech, "the sales really fell out of bed". "Everybody was unhappy; not just the people behind the counters, but all the people you have to please, like bankers, hated being associated with a company that was suddenly a national joke. I was peeing against the wind trying to change it. And it was a shame because I was in there at a very early age, I'd put my life into it and it was all thrown away over something stupid.

"The annoying thing was, it wasn't true! The stuff we sold was not crap. The sherry decanter — well, maybe. But you can't sell £1 billion of jewellery all over the world by selling crap. People in the trade know you have to conform to standards, you have hallmarks.

"Even intelligent people absolutely began to believe that everything we sold was made out of tin. We did once manufacture our own jewellery and that *was* crap: the diamonds were not good enough, the finish of the rings was not shiny. But by closing down our factory and buying elsewhere, we started getting the quality up. Yes, we slashed prices, but people bought because they were better quality products. Even McDonald's couldn't sell a rubber hamburger."

In the end he was forced to resign, in 1992. "I got home that day, on a rainy evening, with a sense of relief, because it had been the worst 18 months of my life. It was nice not to have to fight a losing battle any more." He had no job, and no payoff, but he went to the Caribbean anyway, and tried to wind down.

He sold a grand house on the river at Bray, and bought a less grand one round the corner, with a tennis court and swimming pool, at a rock bottom price. A framed photograph shows him laughing with his oldest friend from childhood, Michael Green, of Carlton. Ratner has spent the last year working three days a week at Tobacco Dock, the formerly moribund shopping mall at Wapping. In Florida, he observed how well "factory outlets" selling bin-end designer-label clothes were doing. So he is going to re-launch Tobacco Dock as a factory outlets mall. "I'm not going to make any forecasts about when, but I am going to get it open sometime, and it will make Covent Garden look ordinary."

But he cannot, at 46, twiddle his thumbs for half the week. His second wife, Moira (who has been "a rock" even when he was, for a regretted interlude, spotted with another woman) says: "It's all very well saying you want to spend more time with your family, but do your family want to spend more time with you?" There are two daughters from his first marriage, Suzy (an actress) and Lisa (learning photography) and two from his second, Sarah, aged six, and Jonathan, aged four.

And he cannot watch his old company languishing. "I can see the amazing mistakes that are made: like lighting. Jewellery has to be displayed properly. The difference it makes to sales is phenomenal, it must be pleasing to the eye. Supermarkets know all the tricks. We had a rule that diamond rings had to be displayed 42 inches from the ground, on the premise that the average woman is five-foot four and the trajectory of her sight falls at 42 inches."

Two Signet shareholders, Julian Treger and Brian Myerson, want management changes, and Ratner says he is one of the contenders who might well move in, come the new year.

The Nineties, he says, are like the Seventies — rather austere. The Eighties will not come back. But isn't there a dearth of interest in gold chains? "Argos and Goldsmiths group are doing all right and a guy called Warren James is opening two shops a week. He's wearing Ratner's old clothes and taking our market share. So I'm hoping to get back in there.

"My wife says, are you completely nuts? But it is the business I was in for 25 years — and I know the business back to front. You have all that expertise and you don't want to do anything else.

"I used to be very edgy. I hated dinner parties. I longed for them to end. Now I'm not as impulsive as I was. I'm calmer. I appreciate things. I exercise and work out at Cliveden, which is ten minutes away, my lifeline. I listen to music, as I haven't since I was 16. I read more. The mistake I made in the past was rushing in to things. But in three years now, I've made no mistakes."



Frenchwomen weigh seven-and-a-half pounds less than their British counterparts, but they lose out in fun, says Kate Muir

FOR FOREIGNERS, the sheer *womanliness* of the French female is a continuing mystery, a secret code everyone would like to crack.

Parisian women not only have a gut instinct for elegance, but they also cook exquisite little ragouts for their husbands, conduct grand amours during working lunches, and have children who never, ever dirty their sailor suits. More humiliating still, they also tend to know who Carson McCullers is.

This extraordinary combination of sensual and intellectual skills has been inherent in the bourgeois female for years. The proof comes in this month's 50th anniversary edition of *French Elle* and December's 75th anniversary edition of *French Vogue*. Both have printed reams of photographs through the decades. The pictures are shockingly similar — a serious case of *plus ça change*. Fashion may alter, but the Frenchwoman remains as chic, clean and perfectly behaved as ever.

The reason is that she is bombarded with messages to be chic wherever she goes. In Parisian clothes shops, assistants paw and pin you until satisfied with the silhouette, or tell you frankly that Madame does not suit puce.

There are mirrors in every public room or hall, and if you add to this the depressing statistic that French women weigh seven-and-a-half pounds less than their British counterparts, some of the elegance is explained.

Then there are the glossy magazines, which keep Parisiennes properly informed about the best books, exhibitions, mushrooms, and the life of writer Carson McCullers — "a veritable *ballad of unlucky love*".

Biba magazine recently revealed how to cope with having a husband, a family, and a lover all at once, advice which for Frenchwomen is as ordinary as how to get a great fake tan.

THE PIECE was full of useful tips on juggling "the fires of love and the cinders of marriage", such as buying your husband and lover the *same aftershave* to avoid olefactory detection after a "working lunch".

And every Saturday *Le Figaro* features a vegetable of the week, with titles like "Fascinating Celery" and "Beautiful Beetroot". This was topped by the recent move into fish: "The Sardine: Blue Princess."

But there is something irritatingly constipated about all this keeping up of appearances. Frenchwomen may be thinner, they may even have a husband *and* a lover, but they definitely have less fun.

Last weekend as I walked down Boulevard Hausmann, two glamorous young women came towards me — their nipped waists and expensive shoes indicating Frenchness. But they walked with confidence and swing, horsing around. They laughed and talked loudly. They dared to take up more space on the pavement.

Their voices, as they passed, were British.

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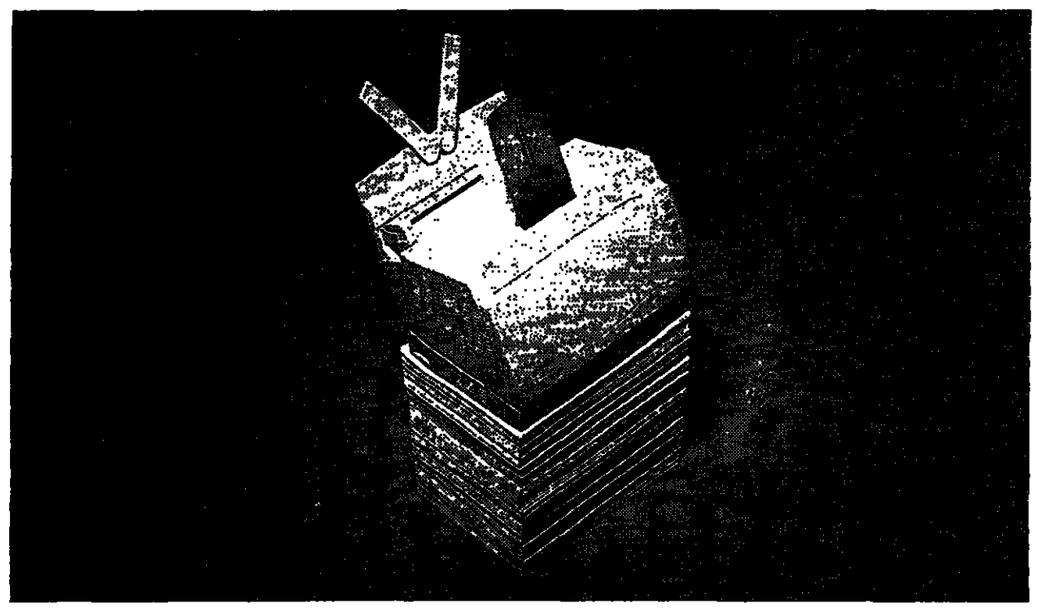
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Janet Daley



■ Now employers must not only accommodate women, but must expect them to become lone parents

London Underground told Susan Edwards, a single mother: "You can be a train driver or a mum." Those words would once have had to be considered a triumph for feminism. In my childhood, nobody thought of offering women much choice at all — physical fertility permitting — about whether they would eventually be mums, and the idea that driving trains could be a female career option would have been risible. But time moves on. The idea that women now have a choice between motherhood and train-driving — or firefighting or *soldiering or frontline policing* — is not enough. What Ms Edwards wanted was to be both a train driver and a single mother — at the same time.

An industrial tribunal ruled this week that she had every right to have that wish *fulfilled*. The words "you can be a train driver or a mum" were regarded as legally damning. So the Underground will now have to pay compensation to Ms Edwards for the "injured feelings" which that statement caused. The Underground now recognises, Ms Edwards says, that the words reflected an "inappropriate attitude" toward female employees. This judgment will have helped the Underground to re-educate its attitudes — as they used to say in China during the Cultural Revolution.

> She insists on being a train driver *and* a single mother

For the tribunal decided *that failing to accommodate* the needs of a single mother in its organisation of shift work counted as sexual discrimination. When Ms Edwards began as a Tube train driver, she worked day shifts only. But a change in the rostering system, introduced in 1992 to increase efficiency, meant that she would have had to accept combined early and late shifts. Being a lone parent made that impossible. So she opted for voluntary severance and sued her former employer for forcing her out of her job.

The logic of the tribunal's finding — never mind the wider justice — is dubious. The argument must go something like this: since all women are potentially single mothers, being a single mother is inherent in the female condition. Thus to create working conditions which cannot be met by single mothers is to discriminate against all women.

Equal opportunities legislation rests on the premise that it is wrong to discriminate against people on the grounds of gender or race — that is, for conditions over which they have no control. One can plausibly argue that potential motherhood is intrinsic to the female condition — although I don't think it follows that all women have an absolute right to working conditions which will be favourable to them through every moment of their maternal cycle. But is potential *single* motherhood an inescapable part of femaleness? Are all women unfairly disadvantaged by any demand from an employer that cannot be met by the single mother of a young child?

Before the whole thrust of equal opportunities law is discredited by absurd rulings, an urgent question must be addressed: is it now illegal for any job to include conditions which preclude any possible liability that only a female would be likely to encounter? Or, to put it another way, does equality *for women demand special* treatment for every eventuality that our biology may present? If so, should it not also be illegal to create working conditions which are especially detrimental to menopausal women (too hot an office) or to those who are *recovering from hysterectomies* (lifting heavy objects)?

It used to be said — in the quaint old pre-feminist days — that employers were reluctant to hire young married women because they were likely to become pregnant. Now they must apparently refrain from creating any working practice which will effectively rule out the combining of work duties with the doubly restricting responsibilities of *single* parenthood. In fact, before London Underground introduced its new rostering arrangements, it spent a good deal of time entertaining *precisely this possibility*. For roughly a year, Tube management and unions discussed a plan called the "single-parent link".

This would have provided 11 special shifts at the ends of lines which would have involved working only "social hours". Single parents — in practice meaning single mothers — would have been invited to apply for these shifts. But the plan was rejected, largely because the unions would not accept it. The collapse of that project counted against the company, since the tribunal felt that the fact of its having been considered meant that the Underground had recognised the problem and sought a solution.

Now I am normally the last person to offer support to a rail union, but in this case, I can see its point. Would this specially privileged group of drivers on favourable shifts be paid the same as those working unsocial hours? If not, would that lower rate of pay not count as sex discrimination too? And what of all the male drivers whose unsocial shifts would rob them of time with their children? Their wives might argue that parenting is not just a woman's responsibility. But in the world of equal rights, some women are clearly more equal than others.



The best and brightest

Monarchs and Presidents show that élites are bred and not born — but Labour cannot admit it

William Rees-Mogg

I've been intrigued by the fact that General Colin Powell turns out to be a descendant of King Edward I. He derives his Plantagenet blood through Sir Eyre Coote, himself a general and a nephew of a greater general, who was Governor of Jamaica early in the last century.

By 1800, the genes of King Edward I must have been widely spread: if one allows three generations to the century, there would have been 15 generations between the King and Sir Eyre Coote, and another four between Sir Eyre and Colin Powell. Even on a replacement basis, 15 generations would produce 32,768 *current descendants, and another* four generations would raise that number to over 500,000. Nevertheless, Edward I seems to be a good bloodline for military leaders. Apart from Colin Powell and the two Cootes, his descendants include Nelson and Wellington.

The Plantagenet gene was even more powerful in the immediate period of its history. Between William the Conqueror and Elizabeth I there were 23 English monarchs, successively of the Norman, Plantagenet and Tudor dynasties. Of these, 11 were great rulers who overcame the historic challenges of their periods: five were in different ways disastrous, and seven were mediocre. Such a record compares favourably with the average standard of democratic leadership. That is unexpected, because one would suppose that competitive election would usually produce abler leaders than genetic inheritance. Of course, medieval monarchs had to be competitive, not least on the battlefield.

Between 1066, when William the Conqueror won the Battle of Hastings, and 1485, when Richard III lost the Battle of Bosworth, there were 18 Kings of England. In this century, so far, there have been 18 Presidents of the United States. My ranking of either group has to be subjective, though I think it comes close to what a consensus of historians might produce. The 18 Norman and Plantagenet Kings of England seem to have included eight of the first class — William I, Henry I, Henry II, Edward I himself, Edward III, Henry IV, Henry V and Edward IV — five of the second class, and five of the third, of whom King John was the nastiest and Henry VI the most ineffectual.

The 18 Presidents of the United States in the 20th century do not include quite as many great men, or quite as many duds. The two Roosevelts, Woodrow Wilson, Truman, Eisenhower, perhaps Kennedy, and Ronald Reagan are all arguably great Presidents; Harding, Coolidge and Ford — all three of them *Republicans — were not up to the job*; the remaining eight have been mediocre. Of course, if one took the Hanoverian line after 1714, the royal result would look less impressive, but the Hanoverians were brought over to be constitutional monarchs, and have largely left the business of government to their Prime Ministers.

In the 20th century, the hereditary principle has been widely discredited in application to human beings, though it is still generally accepted for race horses. Yet the more the scientists discover about the human brain, the more clear it becomes that brain structures are genetically determined physical realities, like our noses or our muscles.

People are just as likely to inherit grandmother's brains, or parts of them, as they are to inherit the shape of her ears or the colour of her eyes. What science cannot decide, and may never be able to decide, is the relative significance in terms of mental ability of this genetic inheritance and of the environment. Kings are successful both because they have the necessary mental attributes and because they are trained to be kings. It seems likely that training on its own cannot produce a great monarch, anymore than it can produce a Derby winner.

The successful Plantagenets and the successful Presidents seem to have inherited a good mixture of different mental qualities, rather than an exceptionally high intelligence. Apart from Woodrow Wilson, none of the 20th-century American Presidents has had the intellectual quality one would associate with senior academic standing. Theodore Roosevelt was undoubtedly highly intelligent, but two of the most successful Presidents, Franklin Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan, struck contemporary observers as highly intuitive but intellectually shallow, *lacking any logical rigour*.

Modern studies of the brain seem to suggest that its working depends on neural networks. This seems to be familiar from political leadership. Successful leaders have an effective relationship of different mental qualities, rather than a single quality, highly developed. There may be some intuitive mental function which enables the leader to dominate the will of other people. You did not say "no" to *Edward I*; you did not say "no" to Wellington; you would hesitate to say "no" to Colin Powell. The Plantagenets had a gene of command, whether Colin Powell inherited it or not.

If Charles Murray and Richard Herrnstein are right in their book, *The Bell Curve*, we are already moving back into a gene-dominated society, in which the best jobs will be gained by the very bright people, the "cognitive élite". They marry each other in the same way that royal families have always inter-married. On this view, the factory age of this century has been an exceptional period of mass-production and relative equality of incomes, in which the politicians have won votes by high public spending and massive transfers of wealth.

If the "bell curve" argument is right, the 21st century will be dominated by the bright and well-educated users of international systems of communications, who will work in whatever environment is most attractive to them. By 2010, it will be technically possible for a surgeon living in Bermuda to operate on a patient in a London or New York hospital. That freedom of geographical location will give the cognitive élite substantial independence of the nation-state. The exceptional gene will earn its market value.

In current British politics there is a fascinating contradition. The Labour Party is the traditional party of the mass industrial worker, of what Karl Marx labelled the proletariat. The Conservative Party has represented the professional and property-owning classes, the élite of their time. Yet since 1979 the Labour Party has come to be led by a group who themselves belong to the *cognitive élite. A good indicator of* élite membership is the high earning power of wife and husband. Mrs Blair undoubtedly earns more than Tony — the Bar pays better than politics. They both have excellent genes for cognitive intelligence, and have made a cognitively appropriate marriage.

For Labour, this has advantages and dangers. If the very bright people are the new social and economic élite, then they will dominate politics. As Tony Blair and his immediate associates are members of this group, they already understand what it wants. There is a great rapport between the cognitive élite of Labour politics and of the modern media. They are blood siblings. The contradiction is that the Labour Party exists to support the interest of the masses. I may use the word "élite" as a term of praise, but Labour can hardly do so. In the longer run, the Conservative Party seems the natural party for the cognitive élite, just as it was for the old bourgeoisie.

The proposed abolition of the voting rights of hereditary peers will be no contradiction to this. The British peerage stopped breeding for brains at least 150 years ago, and started to breed for looks. The hereditary principle is very strong in the cognitive élite, but it is best expressed in Dimblebys, Aitkens, Jays and Bottomleys, Waughs and Amises rather than in Dukes or Marquesses. Perhaps the Conservative Party should now look for the grand old leadership gene of the Plantagenets. Are there any Tory descendants of King Edward I in the present House of Commons, or shall we have to go to Jamaica to find them?

Buying time for Ulster

Paul Bew on John Major's successful fudge

At first sight, the late-night summit in Downing Street looked like a panic reaction to the arrival of President Clinton. When the dust cleared and the *communiqué* was issued, it was clear that the two Prime Ministers had fudged the issue and yet pulled off a coup.

What do the two Prime Ministers gain from their late-night tryst? The short answer is the support of the most powerful man in the world, President Clinton. The White House had studiously *refused to* support the British position on decomissioning of arms. Now, however, there is little chance that the President will rebuke the British Government for dragging its feet, as parts of Dublin's more nationalist press — perhaps prompted by leaks from the American Embassy — had been predicting.

The British claim that more objective attitudes on Ireland now prevail in America's National Security Council. They also point out that the 15,000 British troops offered in support of President Clinton's Bosnia policy give London some leverage. But Whitehall still had some fears about Clinton's speeches in Belfast and Londonderry.

Now, however, President Clinton is at one with Mr Major and Mr Bruton. His support for a package which will seem to many to have been arranged in his honour ensures that Mr Bruton's enemies in the Irish Opposition, Fianna Fail, and in Sinn Fein will have to tone down their criticism.

Sinn Fein and the Democratic Unionists are likely to have serious problems accepting this new proposal, but those who stand out against it will face the combined pressure not of two Governments, but of three — the third being that of the world's last superpower. This is rather more difficult for Sinn Fein than it is for the Democratic Unionists. Unionists are used to living without political friends beyong Ulster, whereas Sinn Fein has recently grown rather addicted to their support.

The Anglo-Irish agreement, signed ten years ago, was supposed to end megaphone diplomacy. Yet since the planned summit between Mr Major and Mr Bruton collapsed in September, negotiations have been drowned out by a series of squabbles in London, Dublin and New York. The British issued a formal riposte at the United Nations to a speech by Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, and there was an unseemly row over a speech by Mr Bruton in London.

In recent years, the negotiations have turned into a high-spirited game in which each side blackens the other's reputation before signing a deal. This has been a game of poker at which John Major has excelled, through his command of the black political arts. First there was the Brussels declaration of October 1993, against "secret deals" and apparently against the united strategy of the Northern Ireland nationalists, both Sinn Fein and the SDLP.

According to a recent book by Sean Duignan, the Taoiseach of the day, Albert Reynolds, believed that Mr Major was far more sympathetic to the plans put forward by Gerry Adams and John Hume than he could admit in public. As Duignan writes, "Hume-Adams was being declared dead in order to keep it alive".

Then came the Downing Street declaration of December 1993, in which the balance of advantage again clearly rested with Mr Major. This was followed by the so-called "framework document" of February 1995, the one hand in the game which the British side palpably lost. In its anxiety to sustain the republican ceasefire at the time, the British signed without achieving their principal negotiating objective, which was an explicit commitment from Dublin that in the event of an acceptable settlement, it would remove from the Republic's Constitution its territorial claim to Ulster. Even so, Mr Major gave himself an escape clause by insisting upon "agreement of the parties" and a referendum on the framework proposal.

But this week's progress is not all good news. Mr Bruton once said: "The worst possible scenario would be if the Government initially set strict terms, but was forced to relax them under threat of a resumption of violence." Yet today the Irish Government is hoping that the new international body will evade the precondition that talks cannot begin without at least some IRA disarmament. The British, of course, hope that the body will suggest a procedure by which the IRA can hand over arms.

In the end, the result of this week's intensive diplomatic manoeuvring may be that the IRA can no longer play the American card, or even the Dublin card — and this could eventually lead to splits in the republican movement. Whatever happens, Mr Major has bought himself a few more months of peace, and precious time to plan the next masterly fudge.

The author is professor of Irish politics at Queen's University, Belfast.

No, John, no

LAVATORIAL matters will be of pressing concern during President Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland today. Members of Derry City Council, who will greet Clinton at a civic reception at the Guildhall, Londonderry, have been informed that they will be prohibited from visiting the lavatory when he is there.

At a council meeting on Monday, the town clerk, John Keanie, advised all councillors that for security reasons they should ensure they make use of the "facilities" before the President arrives. They were told they would have to be in place in the main hall well before Clinton arrives for the reception, and that once inside, there would be no escape for at least two hours.

The real concern is that the councillors are planning a lunch in the best Irish tradition beforehand, with the requisite pre-prandial drinks. "The wine will have been flowing — what else are we expected to do during that time?" says the deputy mayor, Richard Dallas. "I think I'll be carrying a bag with me, in case I'm caught short."

The President and First Lady will not be inconvenienced by these security measures. A lavatory and washbasin have been specially installed in the Guildhall for their use. "We've put a good quality bathroom suite in a room that has been spruced up for them," says a representative. "It will be for their use only."

● *William Hague, the youthful Secretary of State for Wales,*



"That's ridiculous — he doesn't even inhale"

announced yesterday that henceforward Welsh learner drivers will be able to choose to sport either the letters "L" or "D" on the backs of their cars. "D" does not stand for dangerous, but for dysgwyr, which means learner in Welsh.

Night moves

GUINNESS has been freely flowing in Dublin ever since Richard Harris, the reformed hell-raiser and actor, admitted on Irish radio the other day that after 16 years of not drinking, he has reverted to a pint or two after work.

"But no spirits," he said. "The trouble with being off the drink is that you remember clearly the next morning what you did the night before, and when you're off the drink there's nothing worth remembering from the night before."

Dashed lucky

JOHN REDWOOD and Kenneth Clarke do not see eye to eye politically, but the Vulcan (who believes £5 billion should have been slashed from our tax bills) had to admit that he was a beneficiary of the Budget. As the owner of an E-type Jaguar which is more than 25 years old, he will be exempt from car tax. "It's got dash and economy," he says of his motor. "So I think it's rather suitable for me."

DIARY

Ahoy Bellow

THE LITERARY circuit in New York is humming with news of the possible defection of Saul Bellow, the distinguished American writer, from his agent of 25 years to Andrew "The Jackal" Wylie. It was Wylie who secured the whopper of a deal for Martin Amis — an advance of around £500,000 for his novel *The Information*.

Bellow is admirably represented by Harriet Wasserman, and is working up to his 11th novel. She denies any knowledge of a change in their relationship, but a babble of gossips has it that Bellow, who was 80 in June, accepts this will be his last book and he plans to make a commotion in the literary world. If a commotion is what he is after, the Jackal would comply only too happily.

● *Anybody considering giving Andrew Parker Bowles a Christmas present could do worse than proffer a flask of holy water from Lourdes, renowned the world over for its miraculous powers of healing. At a party to relaunch Brown's Hotel in London on Tuesday night, a guest was flaunting a bottle in front of him. "I could really do with some of that," said the poor chap dejectedly.*

Dog's life

CHRISTOPHER WREN's Royal Observatory has gone to the dogs. Visitors to Greenwich on Tuesday were alarmed to see a corgi perched nervously on the roof of the building.

The porky little beast was up there filming a twilight barking scene for the movie *101 Dalmatians*. The trouble was, it was so overcome by the views over London that it refused to bark. After puffing and panting up endless winding staircases to reach the roof, the confused creature refused to emit even a yelp. Only when its owner was winched up on a crane to look the dog in the eye and promise a lifetime's supply of choccy-drops did the woofing start and the clapperboard come down.



Corgi: head for heights

● *The vivid works of Turner Prize-winner Damien Hirst are designed to shock, but there are limits to which even his macabre imagination will not stoop. Late last year, he reportedly turned down the offer of a dead elephant from the Guildford knacker's yard which supplied him with his cows.*

P·H·S

صكذا من الاصل

صكرا من الاصل

AFTER THE VISIT

The IRA must still decide if it is ready for democracy

The Anglo-Irish deal forged on the eve of President Clinton's arrival in Britain was a compelling display of diplomatic brinkmanship. Until the last moment, it was widely predicted that the President's trip would come and go without a breakthrough in the peace process. But, as *The Times* reported on Monday, the Americans were quietly confident that a significant announcement would indeed be made to coincide with Mr Clinton's arrival. That confidence has been impressively vindicated.

The President's satisfied expression as he stood with the Prime Minister outside Downing Street yesterday morning said it all. An international disarmament commission will now begin its work, heading towards all-party talks in February. "It is not for us to get into the details," Mr Clinton told reporters, before moving on to fresh questions and issues new.

That is the privilege of the distant peacebroker. No such luxury, however, is going to be available to George Mitchell, the former Senator proposed as head of the commission, for whom the next two months will represent a daunting challenge. His team now faces a unique task: the disarmament of the best-organised paramilitary group in the world and the consequent integration of its political wing into the constitutional process.

The practical complexities of decommissioning are immense. Although most IRA weaponry is held in the Republic of Ireland, there are also significant caches in Ulster and on the mainland. Mr Mitchell would have to devise ways of collecting firearms and Semtex explosives in many different locations. The men of violence will require assurances that the weapons they deposit will not be used as forensic evidence in prospective criminal investigations. They will also fear that participation in decommissioning will mark them out as members of banned organisations, liable to subsequent arrest if the peace process were to fail. These will not be easy questions to resolve.

The commission may do more harm than good. It will provide the IRA with a new forum in which to set conditions for disarmament. The worst possible result of Mr Mitchell's inquiry would be a shopping-list of demands to be met before republican terrorists hand over a single round. He must therefore concentrate upon decommissioning procedure rather than upon political expectations. If all-party talks are really to start business in February, the commission must before then present a detailed timetable for comprehensive disarmament of republican and loyalist terrorists. Nothing else will do.

Ireland's history counsels against over-optimism in this case. Nonetheless, the agreement reached by John Major and John Bruton is a genuine achievement and a welcome one. This time last week, IRA sources were giving warning that a resumption of violence was imminent. Now the ceasefire seems safe at least until the commission has reported. In return for British acceptance of an early target date for talks, the Irish Government has categorically accepted that the IRA and the British military presence in Ulster are not morally equivalent.

The Prime Minister and Taoiseach also agreed on a mature approach to the so-called "Washington Three" principle that all-party talks cannot begin until the IRA has made a token act of disarmament. This precondition is a sensible one and it remains. But the British Government has raised no objection to the Mitchell commission exploring other ways of securing cross-party confidence in the next round of negotiations. If the commission can devise a new schedule for disarmament which allays the fears of the Unionist community, so be it.

The hope must be that Mr Mitchell makes such progress in the weeks to come that "Washington Three" is made irrelevant by the pace of events. Ideally, disarmament should begin early next year and progress during 1996. The IRA must be made to realise that American goodwill — and funding — are not unlimited. Republican terrorists are being asked not to surrender but to behave as democratic politicians. For men habituated to bloodshed, this is a difficult prospect; but the IRA should be in no doubt that the opportunity now presented to it will not soon come again.

ALONE AGAIN, OR NOT

Beware Continentals who speak of isolation

Britons must stand by for several weeks of pundits proclaiming "Britain isolated in EU". Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* set the tone yesterday by quoting a report on its way to next month's EU summit which confirms that Britain is alone in opposing any increase in the powers of the European Parliament, extension of majority voting and in particular its use in deciding common foreign policies. The EU's leaders can relax in the knowledge that they will be able to enjoy the traditional Christmas pastime of moaning about Britain's futile and lonely intransigence.

John Major should and will ignore the fuss. The Reflection Group of ministers and diplomats who will report to the summit is a rehearsal for the actual negotiation of any revisions to the Maastricht treaty. The intergovernmental conference starts next spring and will probably not end until after the general election. Positions taken now can hardly be taken as final. The rest of the Reflection Group's report will reveal that the grand project of writing "Maastricht Two" has shrunk to an ill-assorted set of ideas for cosmetic adjustments to the original, misshapen treaty of 1991.

Some of those ideas are provoking sharp divisions between Britain's partners. Pressure for more majority voting and power for the European Parliament will not go away and the arguments for them remain unconvincing. But the best tactics to exploit divisions among Britain's partners in the endgame are not yet clear.

By the time that final phase arrives — perhaps 18 months from now — the battlefield of ideas may look quite different. The Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary have other more important European issues to preoccupy them for the time being. The shape, success or perhaps even survival of the EU will not be decided in the intergovernmental conference but by the fate of the plan for monetary union and by progress towards the EU's highest current obligation: helping Eastern Europe by including them in the Western clubs of the EU and Nato. Moreover long conferences playing elaborate word-games with treaty articles on subsidiarity or "transparency" will not do much for Europe's competitiveness against Asia.

The agenda for revising Maastricht which so far carries unanimous or majority support is neither a rethink of the Union's constitution from first principles nor a way of securing greater public support for closer European integration. The list of possible changes on the table is a dismal combination of items left undone in 1991, the increasngly small overlap between France and Germany's wish lists and the usual ragbag of special pleading from vested interests.

The isolation which will matter over the next few years is the gulf between Europe's political classes and their electorates. Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac know that they can bring a single currency into existence only by imposing it in the face of public indifference and resistance. Europe's peoples know — even if their leaders do not — that the weighting of votes for the Council of Ministers is not the most urgent problem for the continent.

SPACE APE EMERITUS

Nasa's simian astronauts soon move to the Bonzo Sheraton

Imagine that you are an elderly chimpanzee. Easily done. You have surely imagined worse things before. Imagine, next, that you have been to outer space as well — in an American craft — dressed in the sort of plump, inflammable suit that Savile Row's tailors would struggle to match.

Now read on. Only good news follows.

The United States Air Force is about to open a luxury home for chimpanzees, those endearing and essential astronauts who once ventured beyond the ionosphere in the loyal service of Nasa's boffins. These monkeys — like the dogs which the Soviet Union once propelled spacewards with less scientific profit — ran risks that men were unprepared to take. And a grateful America has now chosen to reward them.

The United States Air Force will soon begin to construct a home-from-space. Many, if not most, of the original space travellers have died, and the residents are likely to consist mainly of their callow descendants. But the idea is a noble one, and its conception is proof — if proof is still required — of that excellence of sentiment which distinguishes America from less fortunate places.

The cost of this haven for Nasa chimpanzees, and for others of that ape-ilk, promises to be stratospheric. As we report on page thirteen, the US Air Force has disclosed that it will spend up to $100 million on the enterprise. Nasa can now boast proudly that its old monkeys are turned not into salami, or petfood, but into coddled pensioners. Not since Ronald Reagan's Bonzo went to college have American chimpanzees been treated with such *sensibilité*.

But how does one spend $100 million on a simian retreat? A chimpanzee's tastes are normally quite simple, even those of one who has travelled in a spacecraft for God and America. He should, rightly, need no more than an inexhaustible supply of bananas (the United Fruit Company could surely arrange a discount) and a variety of gaily-painted swings and roundabouts on which to frolic.

Perhaps the money will be spent on liveried flea-pickers. "Would you like that little creature removed from under your left armpit, madam?" they might ask, with expensive obsequiousness. "Would you like your buttock scratched, sir, while you eat the flea I have just picked off the lady?"

Servants like these will not be cheap, of course... but $100 million? There must be something else that soaks up all that cash. Actually, we have this theory: it must be those damned costly consultants again. Even chimps have them, you know.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Fudge as path to an Irish solution

From the Reverend Stephen Kingsnorth

Sir, What is a "fudge" (report, "Breakthrough in Ulster peace talks ...", later editions, November 29)? Is not the truth that it is a matter of words, that it is necessary to find the formula which will enable both sides to meet the needs of their constituencies without loss of face?

Over to the commission, the proposed international body to be set up to discuss the disarmament of the IRA and other paramilitary groups. Decommissioning has always been militarily irrelevant. After all, what does decommissioning mean?

Over the months British troops have been withdrawn from the streets of Ulster in stages — taken out of the field. Surely in a commission report that welcome process can be recognised and a continuing programme confirmed. The Government can claim the process was happening anyway. Sinn Fein can claim Britain has a programme of "decommissioning".

In parallel, a programme can be devised relating to IRA weapons to be withdrawn from the field, into the custody of, say, some Irish-American body. The Government can claim the decommissioning of arms has begun. Sinn Fein can proclaim that there has been no surrender, but a congruent process of decommissioning.

Everyone will have a form of words satisfactory to their respective audiences. If that is a fudge, it is to be welcomed. Let us be frank. Confidence will not be earned by acts of decommissioning. The task will be far harder than that. And the humiliation of one side has never been a promising start for the resolution of conflict.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN KINGSNORTH,
Warrington Methodist Mission,
Palmyra Square North,
Warrington, Cheshire.
November 29.

Vespers at Westminster

From Sir Sigmund Sternberg

Sir, I read with interest today's letters regarding the Queen's decision to attend vespers tomorrow at Westminster Cathedral, at which I will represent the Chief Rabbi. I noted the reminder by Dean Bradshaw of the reference by Pope Paul VI in 1970 to the Church of England as an "ever-beloved sister".

I recalled the occasion in 1986 when I accompanied the Pope on his first visit to the Rome Synagogue. His reference then to the Jews as our "elder brother" was extremely well received at the time and often quoted since.

There is an obvious lesson to be learnt from these references in the progress towards better understanding between the faiths.

Yours faithfully,
SIGMUND STERNBERG
(Chairman, Executive Committee),
International Council of
Christians and Jews,
Star House,
104-108 Grafton Road, NW5.
November 29.

From the Reverend David Lawrence-March

Sir, In response to today's letter from the General Secretary of the British Evangelical Council, one could do well to recall the words attributed to *Her Majesty's Elizabethan predecessor*, apparently in a letter to the French Ambassador: "There is only one Lord Jesus Christ and one faith, and all the rest is a dispute about trifles."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LAWRENCE-MARCH
(Chaplain),
Bearwood College,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
November 29.

Consensus politics

From Mr Richard A. Fagence

Sir, I challenge Peter Riddell's assertion ("Her Majesty's controversy", November 20) that a hung Parliament, with no overall majority, would be the certain result should any system of proportional representation be adopted in this country.

No government with an *overall* majority of voters has been elected in this country in the 30-plus years that I have taken an active interest in politics. Indeed, for many of us, the fact that we are constantly governed by representatives of political parties for whom a minority of those casting their votes have voted is an ongoing source of annoyance.

Mr Riddell's assertion that "the first-past-the-post electoral system usually produces a clear result" is a sham when seen in the light of a truly representative electoral system.

I suspect that many who now declare themselves to be profoundly disillusioned by politics and politicians of all persuasions would welcome a system which depended on consensus rather than confrontation for its advancement.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. FAGENCE,
109 Wolf Lane,
Windsor, Berkshire.
November 20.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 42

Putting modern buildings on the list

From Mr Hugh McIlveen, FRIBA

Sir, A "thing of beauty" is an entirely subjective assessment, about which even those best qualified to judge may well disagree. Equally, to assert — as does your leading article of November 25, "Bottomley's buildings" — that "ugliness is inherent" in Centre Point, New Zealand House and Millbank Tower is a simplification of overwhelming assumption.

The listing process does not preclude demolition at some future time. It is intended to prevent wholesale and crass alterations to buildings, thus forever obliterating the very qualities which, in the first instance, ranked them as of significant architectural merit.

You refer to Manhattan, Chicago and Hong Kong: but it is vital to recall that these cities do not consist, as London does, of a plethora of architectural history and styles evolved over centuries. The future balance in London may lie somewhere between the 18th and 19th-century buildings which so many admire and those of the much derided later 20th century; but examples of both must remain for posterity to evaluate and judge.

Whereas architectural heritage was once measured in centuries, the last five decades alone have each produced styles of buildings largely dictated by political and market forces and the technology of the time.

Mrs Bottomley is supported at National Heritage by experienced counsel and by sound advice. She has chosen well.

Yours etc,
HUGH McILVEEN,
Wood House, Whichford,
Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire.
November 26.

From the Director of MEPC UK Ltd

Sir, My company owns Centre Point, having acquired the property as part of the Oldham Estate Co, Ltd in 1987.

Since then, we have successfully fully let the building. We have only one floor out of 32 currently vacant, as your report of November 25 makes clear. This is a very low percentage in the current central London office market.

I therefore strongly disagree with your leader's suggestion, in the same issue, that the building "is unusable". Centre Point provides excellent space, and indeed it houses one of our own regional offices. I personally think it is a very fine building, even though I argued against the listing as unnecessary in view of planning protection.

All I hope now is that English Heritage will allow us a flexible approach to the building in the future so that we can carry out modifications and improvements from time to time, to the advantage of users and public alike.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. SHEPPARD,
Director,
MEPC UK Ltd,
12 St James's Square, SW1.
November 27.

From Colonel Charles H. Wilson

Sir, Your leader advances two criteria for the listing of a building: is it a thing of beauty, and is it an asset to the general landscape? Might there not be a third, which Mrs Bottomley has in mind when preserving Centre Point: that is, as a reflection of the mores of the period?

If the Fleet Prison, where Mr Pickwick whiled away many tortuous hours, had been listed for the third of these reasons, what a mecca it would now be for the lovers of Dickens and all those fascinated by Victorian London — another "Old Curiosity Shop".

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WILSON,
Foxhills, 70 Long Road,
Framingham Earl, Norwich, Norfolk.
November 25.

From Mr J. T. Horrocks

Sir, Why should the Department of National Heritage have the right to tell owners and occupiers of premises what they must do with their structures?

The occupants and the neighbourhood are forced to make do with a building which they may not want, and the owner is compelled to maintain at his expense a building which has outlived its usefulness.

The architecture should be judged by the owners, who have after all paid for their buildings, not by the architect, who has a natural inclination to see his work preserved for posterity. Perhaps the rush to demolish recent buildings is a reflection on their quality and design.

Yours faithfully,
J. T. HORROCKS,
Bell Place,
24 Stamford Road, Bowdon,
Altrincham, Greater Manchester.
November 15.

Abkhazia repression

From Mr Richard Clogg

Sir, Your letter from the British Helsinki Human Rights Group (November 22) is a timely reminder that it is not only in Nigeria that the lure of oil is distorting Western concern for human rights.

Despite the deplorable human-rights records of the governments of Georgia and Azerbaijan, the leaders of both countries have been fêted on official visits to this country.

During the course of his official visit earlier this year (report, February 17) the Georgian leader, Eduard Shevardnadze, made clear his unqualified support for Russian action against Chechenia and called for the suppression of separatism "regardless of cost and criticism".

It is clear to me that Shevardnadze is hoping to apply Russian methods, or better still have the Russian army do his dirty work for him, in the breakaway region of Abkhazia.

The Abkhazians are currently subject to a ferocious blockade applied by Russia but with the manifest acquiescence of Western countries, including Britain, with oil interests in the region. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has now joined in the chorus of bullying, a clear case of blaming the victim.

The Abkhazians number fewer than 100,000. Were they an animal species there would be an outcry at the prospect of their extinction. Instead we see Western governments mesmerised by the lure of oil riches to match those of the Gulf and prepared to give aid and comfort to regimes whose record on human rights and the treatment of minorities is abysmal.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD CLOGG,
St Antony's College,
European Studies Centre,
Oxford OX2 6JF
November 23.

Russian elections

From Mr Liam Halligan

Sir, Investment and aid inflows into Russia are closely linked to Western perceptions of the domestic political situation. In this regard, may I clarify the statement in the brief analysis of the 1993 parliamentary elections contained in your supplement on the Russian Federation (November 24) that Vladimir Zhirinovsky's neo-fascist party — the oddly named Liberal Democrats — gained 23 per cent of the vote.

The results of the 1993 parliamentary elections are often reported in a manner which does not take account of Russia's mixed majority/proportional-representation system of voting. Half of the 450 seats in Russia's Parliament are allocated according to votes cast for particular parties.

Zhirinovsky's party did indeed win 23 per cent of all party votes, entitling it to 59 seats. However, Russians also vote for constituency candidates. The Liberal Democrats won a mere five constituency seats, while Russia's Choice, the party of the reformer Yegor Gaidar, won 47.

In sum, Russia's Choice gained a total of 87 seats, the largest parliamentary faction by far. The Liberal Democrats, with 64 seats, were second.

An understanding of Russia's voting system will be crucial to the interpretation of the parliamentary elections due to take place on December 17.

Yours faithfully,
LIAM HALLIGAN,
Ul. Chapligina 13/2, Moscow.
November 24.

Respect for professions

From Mr Aubrey Wilson

Sir, The MORI poll purporting to evaluate the public's respect for the professions (report, November 24) brings to mind the old gibe that if you ask a market researcher, "How is your wife?" he will reply, "Compared to what?".

MORI must be well aware that you can make any profession or institution top or bottom, depending on whom you compare them with. A study which I recall seeing some three years ago included two professions — veterinary surgeons (who command enormous respect) and solicitors (who attract only obloquy) — which are surprisingly omitted by MORI on this occasion. Had they been included, doctors would have dropped in position and MPs risen.

Yours faithfully,
AUBREY WILSON,
6 Lombardy Place, W2.
November 24.

From the Reverend David Barnes

Sir, Since more people are likely to encounter a clergyman during their lifetime than they are an MP, a company director, or even a journalist, why does your MORI popularity league table omit this profession?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BARNES,
The Vicarage, Queen's Road,
Ash, Canterbury, Kent.
November 24.

From Mr J. Fox

Sir, Magistrates were not included in your poll. Any particular reason?

Yours faithfully,
J. FOX,
23 Bartlett Drive,
Bournemouth, Dorset.
November 25.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Mr Collins and the Bennet entail

From Mr Peter Rodney

Sir, Professor G. H. Treitel, in a masterly exposé on *Pride and Prejudice* which appeared in the centenary issue of the *Law Quarterly Review* (October 1984), suggested two possible explanations for the puzzle raised by Baroness James of Holland Park: "If, in default of a male heir, the Longbourn estate is entailed on Mr Collins, why is his name not Bennet?" [letters, November 18 and 25].

One was that the original creator of the trust had two daughters and settled the estate on the sons (and grandsons, etc) of the elder, and to the sons of the younger in default. The other, more likely, was that one of two branches of a family all having the name Collins changed that name to Bennet on or after succeeding to the Longbourn estate.

To change one's name in this way was common in the 19th century. Edward Austen, Jane's brother, changed his name to Knight on succeeding to the estate of a relation; in *Emma*, Frank Churchill is Mr Weston's son but has changed his name in expecting to inherit the Churchill estate.

Professor Treitel magisterially concludes:

No elaborate hypotheses are necessary to account for the differences in the surnames of the present holder of the Longbourn estate and of his likely successor.

The professor also answers the question why no steps could be taken to bar the entail. Mr Bennet was probably a tenant for life under a resettlement, with succession to his sons in tail male and, in default of any sons, to the sons of an original settlor some generations back.

If Mr and Mrs Bennet had a son, the son would co-operate in resettling the property. But Mr Collins could not co-operate, since he was only heir presumptive and the law then took the view that Mr Bennet might have a son right up to the moment he died. Only an heir apparent, a son of Mr Bennet, could bar the entail.

Yours faithfully,
PETER RODNEY
(Legal consultant,
Plain English Campaign)
171 Elms Crescent, SW4.
November 18.

From Mr D. L. Stewart

Sir, Before the Fines and Recoveries Act of 1833 a tenant of full age in possession of an entailed estate could, by means of a so-called "fictitious action", bar an entail. Has Mr Bennet been enjoying himself in his library rather than reading what was necessary for his family's welfare?

That he should have carried his indolence to the extreme of not bothering to bar the entail just in order to enjoy his wife's complaints may be thought to be carrying his traits of character too far.

Jane and Elizabeth certainly do not seem to know of the possibility of this process when they try to explain the law to their mother, and perhaps Jane Austen herself was unaware of it.

Yours etc,
D. L. STEWART,
Station House,
Heswall Hill, Wirral, Cheshire.
November 18.

From Mr Walter King

Sir, The best-known parallel to the Longbourn entail is that on W. E. Nightingale's property in Hampshire. The heir was his sister's son, William *Shore Smith, rather than his own* daughters. Florence Nightingale and her sister, Parthenope, were thus disinherited, much as Jane and Elizabeth were.

Distant inheritance is not unusual either. On my own death (having only daughters), all entailed property descending to me under an 18th-century ancestor's will reverts to the male heirs of an 18th-century aunt. A lottery bonanza for them (whoever they may be), were the entailed property not long-since dissipated.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER KING,
1 The Walks East,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

From Mr John R. Tippetts

Sir, The father or grandfather of Mr Collins was persuaded to change his name from Bennet in order to inherit the fortune of his maternal grandfather.

A similar situation arose in the Tippetts family in 1787, when Josiah Paul Tippetts assumed the surname Paul in accordance with the will of his maternal uncle. It was his son, John Paul Paul, who built Highgrove House in 1796-98, now the home of the Prince of Wales.

The Collins family, however, was less successful and ultimately lost its money, leaving Mr Collins to depend on the benefaction of Lady Catherine de Bourgh.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. TIPPETTS,
Barncroft, Vicarage Lane,
Dore, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
November 20.

From Mr David Taylor

Sir, Why is Mr Collins not called Bennet? I find the answer obvious: two Mr Bennets in the same novel would have been confusing for the reader.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID TAYLOR,
9 St Paul's Road, Cambridge.
November 18.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 29: His Excellency Señor Eduardo Ponce-Vivanco was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Peru to the Court of St James's.

Señora de Ponce-Vivanco was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Queen received the Bishop of London (the Right Reverend Richard Chartres) who did Homage upon his appointment.

The Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley MP (Secretary of State for National Heritage) administered the Oath.

The Bishop of Chelmsford (Clerk of the Closet) was in attendance.

The Right Reverend Richard Chartres was also appointed Dean of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal.

Afterwards The Queen handed to the Right Reverend Richard Chartres the Badge and Chain of Office upon his appointment as *Prelate of the Most Excellent* Order of the British Empire.

Major Leslie Marsham was received by The Queen upon his retirement as Comptroller of Stores, Royal Mews, and invested him with the Insignia of a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

The President of the United States of America and Mrs Clinton this afternoon visited The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

His Royal Highness this morning visited The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, London NW1.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, the English-Speaking Union of the Commonwealth, this afternoon presented the 1995 Duke of Edinburgh English Language Book Competition Awards and the English-Speaking Union English *Language Award and afterwards* chaired a meeting of the English-Speaking Union Language Committee at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Honorary Member, this evening attended the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers Dinner at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SW1.

By Command of The Queen, the Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this morning upon the Arrival of The President of the United States of America and Mrs Clinton and welcomed The President and Mrs Clinton of behalf of Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 29: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Guide Association, held a Reception at Kensington Palace this afternoon following the presentation of Brooches to those who have become Queen's Guides.

November 29: Princess Alice, *Duchess of Gloucester, President,* was present this afternoon at a Meeting of the Ladies' Guild of St John Ophthalmic Hospital at 1 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
November 29: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon visited the offices of the Starlight Foundation at 8a Bloomsbury Square, London WC1.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended a Celebration given by Rukba (the Royal United Kingdom Beneficent Association) to mark the 95th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother at St James's Palace, London SW1.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00; and will attend an ecumenical service in Westminster Cathedral at 3.30 to mark the centenary of the cathedral's foundation.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as patron and trustee, will attend receptions at St James's Palace at 11.30 and 4.00 for young people who have reached the gold standard in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award; and, as President and Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, will attend a dinner and present the 1995 Albert Medal at the Royal Society of Arts at 7.15.

The Prince of Wales, as Colonel-in-Chief of the Army Air Corps, will visit Wattisham Airfield, Ipswich, at 10.30; and will visit British Telecom's research laboratories at Martlesham, Suffolk, at 2.20.

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend a reception and luncheon for the British Olympic appeal, at the Norwich Airport Hotel, Norwich, at 12.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit the St Ann's Hospice gift fair at Tatton Park, Knutsford, at 11.00; will visit the Hospice, St Ann's Road North, Heald Green, Cheadle, at 12.15; will open the Burnage Primary Care resource centre, Burnage Lane, Greater Manchester, at 1.05; will open the Meir community education centre at 718 Uttoxeter Road, Meir, at 3.20; and will visit the Hothouse, centre for ceramic design, Webberley Lane, Longton, at 4.00.

The Duke of Kent, as Colonel of the Scots Guards, will visit the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, Victoria Barracks, Windsor, at 11.00.

The Duchess of Kent, as Colonel Duchess, The Royal Dragoon Guards, will attend a regimental dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club at 7.45.

Ball

British-Italian Society
The British-Italian Society held a Ball at the Savoy Hotel last night for members and their guests. The Italian Ambassador and Signora Galli were guests of honour and Lord Bridges, Chairman of the Society's executive committee, presided.

Haberdashers

The following have been installed officers of the Haberdashers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr P.W. Bedford; Wardens, Mr D.G.C. Inglefield, Dr *C.J.T. Bateman*, Mr N.A.C. Branson and Mr P.E. Davidson.

Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children
Mr Mark Evans was the host at a musical soirée evening held last night at Bentley & Co, New Bond Street, in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children.

Memorial services

Mr Jeremy Brett
A memorial service for Mr Jeremy Brett was held yesterday at St Martin-in-the Fields. The Rev Nicholas Holtam officiated. Ms Tarn Bassett Gresser read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland, Ms Judy Parfitt read from a letter written by Robert Wagner and Stefanie Powers, Mr John Stride read *Footprints* and Mr Denis Quilley read from a *Letter from America* by Alistair Cooke.

Mr Charles Kay, Ms Sally Head, Controller of Drama, London Weekend Television, Miss Penelope Keith, and Ms Myra Fulford of the Manic Depression Fellowship, paid tribute. Mr *Edward Hardwicke gave an address. The Rev* John Huggins, brother, pronounced the blessing.

During the service Ms Katharine Gowers, violin, played Patrick Gowers' *The Reichenbach Falls.* Among others present were:
Mr David Huggins (son), Mrs John Huggins (sister-in-law), Mr Ashley Huggins, Mr Simon Huggins, Mr and Mrs Patrick Huggins, Mr and Mrs Michael Huggins, Mr and Mrs Andrew Huggins, Ms C Huggins, Mr Tim Butler, Mr David Butler, Squadron Leader and Mrs Colin Butler, Mr Martin Clunes, Mrs Daphne Clunes, Mr and Mrs Martin Clunes, Miss Amanda Clunes, Mrs C Gresser, Mr L Gresser, Mr Colin Kirkpatrick, Mrs Christine Kirkpatrick, Mr Ian Kirkpatrick and other members of the family.
Air Commodore Dame Jean Conan Doyle, Sir Denis Forman, Dame Diana Rigg, Lady (Robert) Stephens, Mr Jules Burns and Ms Andrea Wonfor (joint managing directors Granada Television) with past and present members of staff; Mr Steve Morrison (managing director, LWT), Mr Lewis Mahoney, Ms Christine Payne and Mr Frederick Purcell (British Actors' Equity Association).
Mr William Abney, Ms Jane Annakin, Mr Paul Annett, Ms Kathy Arundale, Ms Eileen Atkins, Mr Tony Ayres, Mr James Barraclough, Mr Christopher Biggins, Mr George Biggs, Dr Christopher Bridger, Mr John Bruce, Mr Stuart Burge, Ms Anna Calder-Marshall, Ms Lynnette Carroll, Ms Anna Carteret, Mr Michael Cashman, Mr James Cellan Jones, Mr and Mrs David Conville, Mr Nicky Cooney, Ms Charlotte Cornwell, Ms Adrienne Corrie, Mr Michael Cox, Mrs Cundy-Cooper, Mr and Mrs Mark Dillon, Mr Vernon Dobtcheff.
Mr and Mrs Alistair Duff, Mr David Eve, Mr Peter Eyre, Mr Frank Finlay, Mr David Fraser, Mr Philip Gault, Ms Josephine Gordon, Mr Michael *Graham, Mr Derek Granger,* Mr Charles Gray, Ms Maria Grimley, Mr Peter Hainting, Mr and Mrs Michael Halifax, Mrs Edward Hardwicke, Ms Emma Hardwicke, Mr John Hawkesworth, Ms Sally Head, Miss Sarah Hellings, Miss Patricia Hodge, Mr Alan Howard, Miss Gayle Hunnicutt, Ms Madelaine Hussey, Mr Pete Kersey, Mr Peter Lambert, Mr Peter Land, Miss Jane Lapotaire, Ms *Sue Latimer, Mr Barry Lowe.*
Mr Peter Mares, Miss Anna Massey, Mr Tom McGarry, Mr Rob McLoughlin, Mr Craig McNeil, Ms Daphne Oxenford, Mr and Mrs Jeremy Paul, Ms Sheila Pickles, Mr Ronald Pickup, Ms Linda Pritchard, Mr Alan Radcliffe, Mr and Mrs William Redford, Mr and Mrs John Ritchie, Mr David Round, Ms Pauline Shaw, Mr and Mrs Martin Shaw, Mrs Patricia Shaw, Miss Sophie Shaw, Ms Jenny Spitzer, Mr Tony Steadman, Mr John Stride, Mr Paul Stubbings, Ms Irene Sutcliffe, Mr Tim Sullivan, Mr Paul Tyrrell, Mr Duncan Weldon, Ms Norma West, Mr Tim Wilding, Mr Robert Willis Fleming, Mrs Joanna Willis Fleming, Mrs Heather Willis-Sandford and Ms Glenda Wood.

Professor Sir David Smithers, Kt MD FRCP FRCS FRCR
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir David Smithers was held yesterday at St Luke's Church, Sydney Street, Chelsea.

The Reverend Derek Watson officiated and prayers were said by The Reverend Canon Ronald Appleton. The Mynyddislwyn Male Voice Choir led the singing. The Address was given by Professor Sir Michael Peckham and a *Tribute by Mr Andrew Smithers (son).* Major-General Bryan Webster (son-in-law) read the lesson.

Members of the family present included Mrs Bryan Webster (daughter), Mrs Margaret Ackroyd (sister), Mrs Andrew Smithers (daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Pelham Smithers (grandson), Mr and *Mrs Kit Smithers (grandson), Mr and Mrs William* Wallace (granddaughter), Mr Justin Webster (grandson), Sebastian and Guy Wallace (great grandsons).

Representing the medical profession were Mr Marmaduke Hussey (Chairman The Royal Marsden NHS Trust), Professor James Malpas (The Royal College of Physicians), Professor Arthur Jones (The Royal College of Surgeons of England), Professor Gerald Adams and Professor Charles Joslin (The British Institute of Radiology), Dr Margaret Spittle (The Royal College Radiologists), together with doctors and staff from The Royal Marsden Hospital.

Professor A.W. Wilkinson
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Andrew Wood Wilkinson, consultant paediatric surgeon, was held yesterday at the Church of St George the Martyr, Queen Square, WC1. The Rev Derek Bacon officiated, assisted by the Rev Ronald Partridge.

Mr James Dickson read the Gospel and Dr Peter Wilkinson, son, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland.

Mrs Jane Bush, daughter, read letters between her parents and Miss Caroline Wilkinson, daughter, *paid tribute.* Professor James Lister and Miss Caroline Doig gave addresses. Among those present were:
Mr Angus Wilkinson (son), Mrs Isabel Sandwell (sister), Mrs Peter Wilkinson (daughter-in-law), Mr Paul Bush (son-in-law), Miss Lucy Wilkinson and Mr Marc Wilkinson (grandchildren), Mr and Mrs *John Osmond, Mr Maurice Inman, Dr Victor* Medill.
Representatives from the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons, the Royal College of Surgeons of England and many other friends and colleagues.

Dr Gerald Levene
A memorial meeting for Dr Gerald Max Levene, senior consultant dermatologist, was held yesterday at the Middlesex Hospital. Dr Pauline Dowd presided. Professor Charles Brook, Dr Christopher Bunker, Professor David Casson, Professor Robin Eady, Dr Saleem Goolamali, Professor Roderick Hay and Dr Allan Marsden also spoke.



Gary Lineker, the football commentator, is 35 today

Birthdays today

Miss Hilary Armstrong, MP, 50; Miss Diana Cotton, QC, 54; Mr Graham Crowden, actor, 73; Mr George Duffield, jockey, 49; Sir Victor Goodhew, former MP, 76; Mr David Lightbown, MP, 63; Mr Radu Lupu, pianist, 50; Mr Patrick McLoughlin, MP, 38; Mr Tom Orford, life president, National Association of Young Cricketers, 90; Lord Parry, 70; Miss Marguerite Porter, ballerina, 47; Sir Stanley Rees, former High Court judge, 88; Mr Max Reinhardt, publisher, 80; Mr John H. Scott, Lord Lieutenant of Shetland, 59; Lord Tope, 52.

UN Year for Tolerance

A meeting was held yesterday at the House of Commons by the UK Council for the UN Year for Tolerance. Speakers included Emma Nicholson, MP, *Larry Hollingsworth,* Mary Berg and Mari Fitzduff. Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Patron of the UK Council, presided.

Luncheon

Carlton Club
Lord Young of Graffham was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Political Committee of the Carlton Club held yesterday at the club. Sir Brian Goswell presided. Mr Simon Mabey also spoke.

Dinners

Smeatonian Society
The Duke of Edinburgh, as an Honorary Member of the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, attended the annual dinner held last night at the Institution of Civil Engineers. Mr James Wiltshire, president, was in the chair.

Mr Mike Bowlin
King Constantine of the Hellenes and Prince Michael of Kent were present at a dinner given last night at Claridge's Hotel by Mr Mike Bowlin, Chairman of ARCO. Mr Jack Kemp was guest of honour.

Other guests were:
The Secretary General of the Commonwealth, the Ambassadors of Israel, Belgium and Sweden, the Minister of the United States Embassy, the Minister-Counsellor of the Brazilian Embassy, Mr Roger Abel, Mr Rick Ahearn, the Earl of Airlie, KT, Lord Alexander of Weedon, QC, Mr Robert Anderson, Sir Michael Angus, Lord Annan, Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, Mr Robert Baldock, Ms Elizabeth Bartscherer, Mrs Margaret Beckett, MP, Sir Isaiah Berlin, OM, Mr Alex Bernstein, Sir Hugh Bidwell, Sir Thomas Bingham, Mr Mark Birley, Baroness Blackstone, Mr Dieter Boch, Mr Vernon Bogdanor, Mr John Booth, Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, Lord Briggs, Baroness Brigstocke, Mr John Browne, Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP, Sir Terence Burns, Mr David Bussey, Professor Marilyn Butler, Professor Averil Cameron, Lord Chalfont, Lord Charteris of Amisfield, Mr Rodney Chase, Mr Jay Chesshire, Sir David Checketts, Mr Anthony Cheetham, Mr J N Clarke, *Mr Michael Cockerell, Mr Lod Cook,* KBE, Sir Alcon Copisarow, Mr Joe Darby, Mr John Davidson, Sir Robin Day, Mr Donald Derrick, Mr Mike Devereau, Mr Kenneth Dickerson, Mr Marlan Downey, the Earl of Dudley, Mr Tim Eggar, MP, Mr Christopher Fay, Sir Robert Fellowes, Mr Anthony Fernandes, Mr Anthony Figgis, Mr Michael Fishwick, Mr Ian Forbes, Mr Michael Forsyth, MP, Sir Paul Fox, Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, QC, Ambassador John Gavin, Sir Peter Gibbings, Ms Rosalind Glimore, Mr Stephen Glovanisci, Mr Michael Green, Mr John Grigg, Mr John Gummer, MP, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, KG, CH, FRS, Mr Rupert Hambro, Sir Ronald Hampel, Lord Hanson, Mr Kenneth Harris, Mr Roger Harrison, Mr Graham Hearne, Sir Edward Heath, KG, MP, Mr Simon Heffer, Sir Denys Henderson, Sir Nicholas Henderson, Professor Peter Hennessy, Mr Alan Hirsig, Mr Robert Horton, Mr Anthony Howard, Mr Michael Howard, QC, MP, Dr Norman Howard, Mr David Howell, MP, Lord Hunt of Tanworth, Sir David Hunt, Mr David Hunt, MP, Mr Marmaduke Hussey, Sir Bernard Ingham, Mr Robin Janvrin, the Hon Peter Jay, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, Mr Simon Jenkins, Sir Philip Jones, Mr Charles Kennedy, MP, Mr Geoffrey Kent, Sir Chips Keswick, Mr Henry Keswick, Mr Stephen Lamport, Ms Julia Langdon, Sir Geoffrey Leigh, Mr Manyn Lewis, Mr Peter Lilley, MP, Mr I G McAllister, Mr Hugh McIlvanney, Ms Sheila McKechnie, Mr David McLaughlin, Mr Mark Malcomson, Mr Stephen Mallows, Professor Robert May, Mr Anthony Merifield, Mr David Metcalfe, Lord Leonard Miall, Mr Nicholas Morrell, the Hon Colin Moynihan, Sir Patrick Neill, QC, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, Ms Pauline Neville-Jones, Mr Brian Nicholson, Dr Peter North, Mr Richard Norton, the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, Sir Paul Osmond, Lord Owen, CH, Mr Peter Owen, Mr Geoffrey Parkhouse, Mr Hayden Phillips, Sir Charles Powell, Lord Quinton, Sir John Quinton, Mr Geoffrey Reed, Lord Rees-Mogg, Mr Giles Remnant, Sir Robert Rhodes James, Lord Richard, QC, Sir John Riddell, Mr Andrew Roberts, Mr Terry Robinson, Mr Joe Rogaly, Mr Kenneth Rose, General Sir Michael Rose, the Hon Amschel Rothschild, Lord Rothschild, Sir George Russell, Dr Peter Ryan, Mr Richard Ryder, MP, Mr Maurice Saatchi, Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover, KG, Lord St John of Fawsley, Mr Marvin Schlanger, Sir David Scholey, Mr Raymond Seitz, Dr Michael Shea, Mr James Sherwood, Mr Peter Shore, MP, Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, Mr Robert Solberg, Sir Richard Southwood, Dr Lyndon Stanton, Sir David Steel, MP, Mr Edward Streator, Mr Stephen Suellentrop, Mr Peter Sutherland, Sir Adrian Swire, Mr Ian Taylor, MP, Mr K H Taylor, Sir Denis Thatcher and Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS, Mr G E Ward Thomas, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, KT, Mr Richard Thornton, Sir Crispin Tickell, Mr Ion Trewin, Mr Andrew Turnbull, Dr Ian Twinn, MP, Lady Villiers, Mr William Wade, Lord Wakeham, Mr Jim Wallace, MP, Sir Peter Walters, Mr Alan Watkins, Mr Jess Watts, Mr Richard Webb, Lord Weinstock, Mr Grant Williams, Mr R.J.F. Wilson, Lord Windlesham, Mr Nigel Winser, *Lord Wolfson, Dr Frances Wood, Dr* Robert Woof, Lord Wyatt of Weeford, Mr Will Wyatt, Lord Young of Graffham, Mr Philip Ziegler and Mr Nazim Zouloueche.

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister and Mrs Major were the hosts last night at a dinner held at 10 Downing Street in honour of the American President and Mrs Clinton. A reception was held afterwards.

Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company
The Lord Mayor, at a dinner last night at Stationers' Hall, presented a certificate to Mr Oliver Greenwood, a graduate who has completed a post graduate research programme, sponsored jointly by Pira International and the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company's Educational Charity. Mr A.B. Brooker, Master, presided. Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Ross, Commandant General Royal Marines, and Mr R.F. Fullick, Upper Warden, also spoke.

Two Cities Dining Club
Mr John Biffen, MP, was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Two Cities Dining Club held last night at the St Ermin's hotel. Mr *Kenneth Dibben* presided.

European-Atlantic Group
The Ambassador of the Russian *Federation, accompanied by Mrs* Adamishina, was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner of the European-Atlantic Group held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel. Lord Dahrendorf, chairman, presided. Sir Rodric Braithwaite, Dr Iain Elliot and Sir Frank Roberts also spoke. Among those present were:
The Ambassadors of Egypt, Romania, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Latvia, Hungary, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Georgia, the Chargé d'Affaires of Estonia and other members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Millbank Club
The Millbank Club entertained last night at the Carlton Club Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, and Mr Jeremy Hunt, Sir John Cope, MP, president, presided.

Printers' Charitable Corporation
Mr Norman Garrod, President of the Printers' Charitable Corporation, presided at the festival dinner held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane. After the dinner Mr Frank Barlow, chairman of the council, announced Sir Frank Rogers as president for 1996.

Foundation for Science and Technology
Lord Butterworth, Chairman of the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology, presided at a lecture and dinner discussion held last night at the Royal Society in association with the European Science Foundation. Professor Dr Joachim Treusch, Dr Peter Williams, Professor Dr Hartmut Weule and Professor Dr Walter Kröll were the speakers. The German Ambassador was among *those present.*

Appointment

Mr Richard Ralph to be Governor of the Falkland Islands and Commissioner of the South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, in succession to Mr David Tatham who will be moving to a new appointment.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.C. Behrens and Dr R.F. du Quesnay
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr Michael and Mrs Mirielle Behrens, of London, and Renée, eldest daughter of Mr Ronald du Quesnay and Mrs Roy Lankester, of Kingston, Jamaica.

Mr A.D. Brown and Miss M.G. Cunniffe
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Brown, of Hampton, Middlesex, and Marita, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Cunniffe, of Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.

Mr G.R.F. Corbett and Miss R.J. Smith
The engagement is announced between Gavin Roger Frater, younger son of Mr and Mrs A.R. Corbett, of Edinburgh, and Rhona Jean, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Smith, of Craigrothie, Fife.

Mr L.T. Fenwicke-Clennell and Miss E.S. Aykroyd
The engagement is announced between Luke Thomas, younger son of Mr and Mrs Warren Fenwicke-Clennell, of Kirk Hammerton, York, and Emily Sorrel, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Aykroyd, of Nun Monkton, York.

Major P.D.P. Hankinson and Miss V.A. Maymon
The engagement is announced between Major Piers Hankinson, The Queen's Royal Lancers, younger son of Commander David Hankinson, of Earls Court, London, and Mrs Donald Campbell, of Standen, Isle of Wight, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Antony Maymon, of Sutton, Surrey.

Mr J.C. Hutchison and Miss J.F.E. Laidlaw
The engagement is announced between James, son of Sir Peter and Lady Hutchison, of Kippen, Stirlingshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Laidlaw, of Edinburgh.

Mr J.H. Leaf and Miss A.H.F. Stanford
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Leaf, of Thrussington, Leicestershire, and Alicia, younger daughter of the late Admiral Sir Peter Stanford, and of Mrs Derek Bazalgette, of Hambledon, Hampshire.

Mr J.A.G. Isaacs and Miss C.M. Davidson
The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Peter Isaacs, of Barnes, London, and Catriona, youngest daughter of Colin Davidson, MB, MCh, FRCS, and Mrs Davidson, of Bristol.

Mr N.J. Paterson and Juffr. L. Schellekens
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs Keith Paterson, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Liesbet, eldest daughter of Dhr. en Mevr. Paul Schellekens, of Turnhout, Belgium.

Mr G.J. Pollock and Miss C.N. Byron
The engagement is announced between Gerard, son of Mr and Mrs Kevin Pollock, of Rotorua, New Zealand, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Byron, of Beccles, Suffolk.

Captain R.D. Udy and Miss F.T. Sharp
The engagement is announced between Captain *Richard Udy,* The Kings Royal Hussars, son of Mr and Mrs David Udy, of The Vineyards, Bath, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Sharp, of Rookhurst House, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Mr S.M. Webb and Miss R.B. Phelps
The engagement is announced between Steven, son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Webb, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Phelps, of Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire.

Mr P.W. Wilkins and Miss M.D. Mahoney
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr Christopher Wilkins, of Newcastleton, Roxburghshire, and Mrs Patricia Wilkins, of Sheldon, Honiton, and Michelle, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs *James Mahoney,* of Clarke's Beach, Newfoundland.

Marriage

Mr S. Mann and Miss A. Freedman
The marriage between Mr Simon Mann, son of Mr and Mrs George Mann, and Miss Amanda Freedman, daughter of Mr Maurice Freedman and Mrs Marilyn Freedman, took place on Wednesday, November 29, 1995, in London.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Andrea Palladio, architect, Padua, 1508; Sir Philip Sidney, poet and soldier, Penshurst, Kent, 1554; John Bunyan, writer and preacher, Elstow, near Bedford, 1628; Jonathan Swift, poet, satirist and pamphleteer, Dublin, 1667; Mark Twain, writer, Florida, Missouri, 1835; Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister 1940-45 and 1951-55, Blenheim Palace, 1874; Charles Hawtrey, actor, Hounslow, west London, 1914.

DEATHS: John Selden, lawyer and historian, Whitefriars, 1654; Giambattista Bodoni, type designer, Padua, 1813; Oscar Wilde, dramatist and poet, Paris, 1900; Edward John Eyre, explorer in Australia, Tavistock, 1901; Wilhelm Furtwangler, conductor, Baden-Baden, 1954; Beniamino Gigli, tenor, Rome, 1957; Patrick Kavanagh, poet, Dublin, 1967; Sir Compton Mackenzie, writer, Edinburgh, 1972; Sir Terence Rattigan, dramatist, Hamilton, Bermuda, 1977; Joyce Grenfell, actress and broadcaster, London, 1979.

Today is the Feast of St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland.

The Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire, south London, 1936.

Royal Air Force

Judge Neville has been appointed Honorary Air Commodore of No 3 *(County of Devon) Maritime Head*quarters Unit RAAF.

The following RAF officers have been appointed as Aides-de-Camp:
Group Captain D.A.G. Bremner, Group Captain G. Jones and Group *Captain G.A. Miller.*

The Rev Group Captain A.T.R. Goode has been appointed an Honorary Chaplain to The Queen.

University news

Oxford
The following have been awarded university prizes:
Winter Williams Law Prizes 1995:
First prize: Colin West, St Anne's College; second prize: Iain Pester, Merton College; awards for meritorious work have been made to Gavin Foster, Regent's Park College, and David Grant, Worcester College.
*British Telecom Research and Tech*nology Prize for Computing Science 1995: Graham Sharp, The Queen's College.
L.J. Witts Prize in Haematology or Gastroenterology 1994-95: David *Ross Camidge, Lincoln College.*

Merton College
Miss K.M. Bacon, formerly of Frome College, has been promoted to a Postmastership.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Look after the flock of God whose shepherds you are; do it, not under compulsion, but willingly as God would have it; not for gain, but out of sheer devotion.
1 Peter 5 : 2 (REB)

BIRTHS

BABESAR/HOOH – A girl at Wellington Hospital born 23rd November 1995 to *Randa and Adel.* Welcome to the world!
BOLS – On November 26th, to Kate (née Barnard) and Pete, a daughter, Harriet Tabitha Kate, a sister for Samuel and Jessica.
COMPTON – On November 24th at The Wellington Hospital, to Camille (née Thompson) and Michael, a daughter, Abigail Olivia, a pretty sister for Max.
DARBY-HIDALGO de CAVIEDES – To William Nicholas and Teresa, a beautiful daughter, Eliza Maria, at The Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, on 22nd November 1995.
FRANKEL – To Jonathan and Penny at Wexham Park *Hospital, a daughter, Olivia* Clementine, on 22nd November, a sister for Katie.
GEE – On Monday November 27th, to Sarah (née Bevitas) and Colin, a beautiful daughter, Ellamanda, a sister for Tabitha and Bay.
GIBBS – On Tuesday 28th November 1995 at Southend Maternity Unit, to Ann (née Wells) and Paul, a son, Sebastian Jacob, a baby brother for Chris and Bryony.
HAMPSON – On November 23rd, to Rachel (née Gibson) and Harry, a daughter, Charlotte Joan Elizabeth.
MOORES – On November 20th, to Amanda (Min) née Fitzpatrick and Philip, a son, William Michael.
PHIPPS – On November 21st at Ealing Hospital, to Aya and Mark, a daughter, Charlotte Diana.
RAY – On 28th November 1995 in North Carolina, USA, to Jacqueline (née Ward) and Nick, a daughter, Katherine Emily Georgia.
SADLER – On 26th November 1995 at home in London, to Kate (née Hordern) and Crispin, a daughter, Miranda, a sister for Olivia.
SIRA – On 22nd November at The Wellington Hospital Puneet and Satwinder are pleased to announce the arrival of their beautiful baby daughter – Simran.
SNOW – On November 25th, *to Vicki (née Whitehouse)* and Charlie, a son, Harrison William.

BIRTHS

STANEYEFF – To Christine and Nick on 27th November, at The Matilda Hospital Hong Kong, a daughter, Alexandra Grace, a sister for Sophie.
STANFORD – On 28th November 1995, to Anne (née Revell) and Henry, a daughter, Celia Elizabeth Revell.
WALKER – On November 26th at The Portland Hospital, to Karen and Sean Walker, a wonderful son, MacKenzie Robert, a brother for Callum and Danielle.
WENTWORTH-STANLEY – On November 28th, to Annie and Adrian, a son, Charles Edward.

DEATHS

AITKEN – On November 26th, suddenly but peacefully at home, Robert William Aitken, beloved husband of the late Phoebe Noble. A much loved father, grandfather and brother-in-law. Funeral Service at Chichester Crematorium on Monday December 4th at 3pm. Enquiries to L.F. Linnott & Son 01730 813264.
BARRINGTON – On November 28th at her home in Dorset, Pamela Nicolette *Gardiol, wife of the late* Brigadier Guy Barrington. Funeral at St Mary's, Chettle, on Tuesday December 5th at 2 pm.
BOAKE – On 26th November 1995 peacefully at the Old Rectory Nursing Home, Newdigate, Elizabeth Mary (Bettie) widow of Hal. Beloved mother of Neil and Buzz, grandmother and friend to many. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving on Monday 4th December at 11 am at St Peter's Church, Newdigate. Family flowers only. Donations for P.D.S.A. may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trellis House, Dorking.
BRIDGES – Margaret Nicola (née Becher) on Tuesday 28th November at Salisbury Hospice. Dearly beloved wife of Robin and much loved by sister Gillian Butler and family James, Thomas, Johnny and stepchildren Carol, Emma, Gabrielle, Phillip and Jocelyn. Funeral Service at 1.45 pm on Tuesday 5th December at St Edwards Church, Teffont Magna, Salisbury, Wilts. Flowers or donations to Salisbury Hospice Care Trust c/o D.N.C Shergold, 189-161 Fisherton Street, Salisbury, Wilts.

DEATHS

CHESTER – On November 28th 1995, George Frederick (Eric) aged 89 years, dearly loved husband of Dorothy and father of Timothy and Edward, died peacefully and unexpectedly. Private funeral.

COLMAN – Benedict James. On 24th November 1995 aged 57. The youngest son of the late Major Alan Rees Colman and the Hon. Victoria Helen Colman. Very sadly missed brother of Anthony and beloved by family and friends. Service and cremation will take place at Putney Vale Crematorium on Saturday 2nd December 1995 at 3 pm. Flowers may be delivered to J.H. Kenyon, 83 Westbourne Grove, W2 4UL on Friday 1st December or to the Crematorium on Saturday 2nd December. Enquiries tel: (0171) 229-3810.

CRAIG-HAINISH – Peacefully in London on November 26th, Weir, aged 90. A religious ceremony will be held at the Carmelite Church, Kensington, on Saturday December 2nd at 11 am. Interment in the *grave of his stepmother, Mrs* Ina Thorndike, will be held at the Falmouth Cemetery on Monday December 4th at 9.15 am. All enquiries to J.H. Kenyon (0171) 937-0757.

DAVIES – John (Jack) Karl Lloyd peacefully at home on November 27th aged 80 years. Dearly loved husband of Louise and loving father of Marie Claire, John, Catherine and Paul. Requiem Mass and funeral on December 6th at 2.30 pm at St Helen's Church, 27 Milton Road, Westcliff on Sea. No flowers please but donations to St Joseph's Hospice, London E8. Enquiries to Funeral Directors J.W. Tate & Son. (01702) 343064.

DOUGLAS – On 27th November 1995, Malcolm aged 85, peacefully at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. Family Service at St Mary's Church, Denton, Norfolk on Friday 8th December 1995 at 11 am followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to Church Fabric Fund. Tel: (01986) 892178. Memorial Service to be announced later.

DEATHS

DOYLE – Tony, widow of Lionel Doyle, both formerly of Ewell, died after long period of suffering on 29th November. Funeral Monday 18th December 2 pm Our Lady of Walsingham, Enfield. Family flowers only. Donations to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o Martin Shepherd and Co, 2, Brick Lane, Enfield EN3 5BA.
DRINKWATER – Joanna Elizabeth on 27th November 1995 aged 37, at The Royal Marsden Hospital after a long illness most bravely borne. A much loved daughter, sister, aunt and friend. Memorial *Service at Fairford Parish* Church on Saturday 9th December 1995 at 11.30 am. Donations if wished to the Doctor Ian Smith Cancer Research Fund, Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London.
ELLERY – On November 17th 1995 suddenly, Gladys aged 83 years. Wife of the late Frank Ellery, mother of Tony and grandmother to Alexander and Ann. The funeral has taken place. All enquiries please to F.A Holland & Son, Terminus Road, Littlehampton. tel: (01903) 713939.
GEDDES – On 29th November 1995, The Hon. Dr. David Campbell Geddes, aged 78 years. Service at Hastings Crematorium on Friday 1st December at 3.30 pm. No flowers, but donations if wished to Talking Newspaper Association of the U.K. c/o C Waterhouse & Sons, High Street, Berwick, E. Ss. Tel. 01435) 882219.
GRANT – Clare wife of the late Lt. Col. Peter Grant on Tuesday 28th November. Requiem mass and burial at St Mary and St Philip, Fordingbridge on Monday 4th December at 12 noon.
GRAY – Philip Bruce on 24th November, aged 39. After a long illness bravely borne. Much loved and treasured husband of Sue. Sadly missed and forever in our hearts. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Haemappeal, Katherine Dormandy Trust, Royal Free Hospital, London NW3. Funeral Service at Upton Lovell Church, nr. Warminster, Wilts. at 12 noon on Saturday 2nd December.
HUTSON – Madeline peacefully aged 90 on November 26th, widow of Archie, much loved mother of James and John, beloved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral on December 5th. Enquiries to C.T. Davies Funeral Director tel: (01792) 391142.

DEATHS

JOHNSTON STEWART – On Monday, November 27th, 1995, suddenly at home, Robert Hathorn, beloved husband of the late Cecilia Anne and father of Robin, Bernard, Candida, Hamish and Gavin. Funeral at St Martin and St Ninian's Church, Whithorn on Friday, December 1st at 2pm. Family flowers only please, but donations to Society For The Protection of Unborn Children, 7 Tufton Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3QN.
LAKE – On 20th November 1995, Norah, peacefully at *Jansen Dean Nursing Home.* Sadly missed mother of Robina and grandmother of Lesley, Sally, Jane, Sara, Fanny, Tom and Oliver. Widow of Albert Lake. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Shortlands, 11 am Friday 1st December.
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OBITUARIES

SYDNEY BAILEY

Sydney Bailey, writer and pacifist, died on November 26 aged 79. He was born on September 1, 1916.



A SPOKESMAN for peace, Sydney Bailey provided a still, small voice of calm amid the often violent rhetoric of national confrontation. As a Quaker and convinced pacifist, he put his trust in the basic decency of human nature. He believed that if people on one side of a conflict could be induced to see those on the other side as human, then fears and hatreds could be soothed, and negotiations could begin.

His peacekeeping missions took him to the troublespots of the world. He travelled frequently to the Soviet Union at a time when the world was in the grip of the Cold War. He was especially involved in the Middle East, acting as a quiet mediator between Israeli foreign ministers and leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and he played a behind-the-scenes role in the drawing up of Resolution 242, the key document which, after the 1967 war, formed the foundation of the land-for-peace deal. He also visited South Africa several times before the collapse of apartheid and headed the British Council of Churches delegation to Northern Ireland.

In many ways a shy man, he adopted an understated, almost anonymous role. Unlike some better known negotiators, he never gave a press conference before he left on a mission, preferring to slip discreetly through airports, a seemingly innocuous old man confined to a wheelchair. His job, as he saw it, was to provide an unofficial and essentially private channel of communication between sworn enemies when the demands of nationalistic propaganda and patriotic pride prevented either side from making their negotiations public.

In the 1950s he spent four years as the Quakers' non-governmental representative at United Nations General Assembly meetings. Chatting informally at the bar, he would build up relationships with diplomats of all nationalities and, afterwards, his private rooms would provide a forum for informal debate in which the points of view of differing factions could be exposed and discussed.

He wrote more than 15 books on the subject of peacekeeping, many of which emphasise the importance of the UN in the resolution of international disputes. These books are still often used today as training tools for young diplomats. They have become part of the ongoing process for the promotion of peace in a way which Bailey would have approved. "Peace is a process to engage in, and not a goal to reach," was his conclusion to his last book.

Sydney Dawson Bailey developed his pacifist convictions at an early age. When he was 13 the Bishop of Blackburn came to his school to address the boys. "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's," the bishop intoned, intending to demonstrate that duty to the State was one and the same thing as duty to God. He impressed upon the young boys their responsibility to fight for the British Empire. But Bailey instinctively felt this to be at odds with the pacifist messages of Christianity. "I felt that it couldn't be right for Christ to be a fighter," he later said.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, Bailey registered as a conscientious objector. His family was Methodist, he explained to the tribunal, but he had attended the Congregational Church and was now a pacifist tending towards Quakerism. The tribunal, suspicious of such seeming vagaries, ruled against him. But Bailey appealed, and convinced a second tribunal that his humanitarian beliefs were in earnest when he told them that he had given more than 28 pints of blood.

Bailey served in the Friends' Ambulance Unit in Burma and China during the war. It was here that he contracted the tropical disease bilharzia, although the infection was not diagnosed until many years afterwards, by which time it was too late. His leg, and various of his internal organs, were by then severely damaged and by his fifties he was permanently confined to a wheelchair. It was also in China that Bailey finally joined the Society of Friends.

Returning to London, Bailey worked with those left homeless by the Blitz. He met his wife Brenda, also a Quaker, who was to work with him closely for the rest of his life.

After two years as a bank teller, and a brief spell as an insurance clerk, Bailey began to involve himself full-time as a professional peaceworker. He followed the dictates of a Quaker conscience which told him: "You must try, speak up, at least do something, even if you never see any tangible results."

Among the most important official roles he played were those of Quaker representative to the UN from 1954 to 1958 and visiting scholar of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace from 1958 to 1960.

But his physical handicap concentrated his mind on writing and thought. His first book *Ceylon* was published in 1952 and he wrote prolifically from then on, his subjects usually a combination of political study and religious conviction. Among his most important works were *Prohibitions and Restraints in War* (1972), *How Wars End* (1982), *War and Conscience in the Nuclear Age* (1987) and *The United Nations: A Short Political Guide* (1989). His last book, *Peace is a Process*, was published in 1993.

Sydney Bailey is survived by his wife Brenda, and by their son and daughter.

PRIMROSE BORDIER

Primrose Bordier, French textile designer, died in Paris on November 21 aged 66. She was born there on March 20, 1929.



PRIMROSE BORDIER had a flair for colour. Her main achievement in a thirty-year career as one of France's leading textile designers was to introduce a rainbow brightness into the French home. Drawing her inspiration from the United States and, later, Japan, she persuaded textile manufacturers to diversify away from dominant all-white themes and use coloured and motifed fabrics all over the house, from the dining room to the bathroom. Bordier was the instigator of the fashion for co-ordinated colours.

Later in her career, manufacturers from outside the textile industry — shoemakers, chocolate houses, and even a car factory — came to her for advice on how to brighten the appearance of their products. She also moved into household fragrances, making small boxes of scented ceramics, and inventing a sweet-smelling powder for vacuum cleaners. She was responsible for introducing American-style paper tablecloths, napkins and cups to the French market and she even turned her colour sense to kitchen utensils, lizard-skin ladies shoes and the purple Microcar city vehicle which was launched by the yacht-maker Jeanneau. But her main client was Descamps, the makers of bed linens. As their chief *styliste*, she made them a household name.

Customers such as Jackie Onassis, Barbra Streisand and Ingrid Bergman promoted Bordier's transatlantic reputation and Descamps opened a boutique for her work in New York. Bordier designs are also found in major department stores all over Britain and in Japan.

Bordier spent five years in the 1950s at a textile design atelier, moving to a velvet manufacturer before completing her training at Boussac, then France's largest textile firm. In the early 1960s she became a household linen designer for the Au Printemps department store in Paris.

Influenced by American fashions for coloured sheets, she ran her own boutique in Paris for a short while, before Au Printemps wooed her back in 1965, offering her a sales space within the store. Opening during the annual Saison du Blanc, devoted traditionally to white linen, Bordier's collection created a sensation. One newspaper heralded her designs as a "revolution in the linen chest".

Her contract with Descamps, signed in 1966, led to franchised stores around France. It ran until 1992 when she launched her own small design company, Couleurs, Desseins et Modèles, along with fellow designer Catherine Braghetti. Shortly before her death, the two women were working on a collection destined for a new market in India.

Bordier's character was as cheerful as her own favourite colours — plum, violet and orange. Her house in the Villa Montmorency, Paris's most exclusive private square, was a blaze of brightness except for the walls which she kept white to offset her modern art collection of works by the surrealist Max Ernst and the abstract painters, Pierre Alechinsky and Serge Poliakoff.

In 1976 Bordier became the first woman designer to be awarded the Légion d'honneur, which she received from the hands of Françoise Giroud, then Ministre de la Condition Féminine and, coincidentally, one of Bordier's leading clients.

Primrose Bordier was the widow of Charles Gombault, former Editor-in-Chief of *France Soir*. They had no children.

RALPH WHITLOCK

Ralph Whitlock, writer and farmer, died on October 22 aged 81. He was born on February 7, 1914.



RALPH WHITLOCK was the last of the great quartet of modern writers on farming and rural life — which comprised Arthur Street, Ralph Wightman and Rolf Gardiner — and with them he was heir to a tradition of writing which began with William Cobbett and which included W.H. Hudson and Richard Jefferies, Flora Thompson and Edith Olivier.

He owed his gifts of communication to his aptitude for learning and listening: listening to his father's reminiscences of life before the First World War, and learning, first at Bishop Wordsworth's School, Salisbury, and later in the hard school of experience writing as a freelance for local papers.

Whitlock began his writing career by spotting a gap in the market: community news in the local press did not include coverage of his home village of Pitton. He proceeded to make good use of this omission, writing in two, sometimes three, papers each week — to the not inconsiderable benefit of his family's finances. His knowledge of rural life and lore, gained at first-hand, distinguished his weekly columns and by 1932 Whitlock had embarked on a career which was to last more than fifty years, writing the *Western Gazette*'s countryside column.

In 1944 Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, Editor of *The Field*, invited Whitlock to submit a series of articles on farming, which led to his tenure as that magazine's farming correspondent from 1946 to 1974. Later he wrote regularly for both *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Manchester Guardian Weekly*.

Doubtless, it was this journalistic discipline which gave to Whitlock's writing the grace and fluency that facilitated his prodigious output. He wrote well over a hundred books, excluding new editions of earlier works. There was, indeed, sometimes a direct link between his press pieces and his books. Collections such as *Roundbarrow Farm* (1946) and *Letters from the English Countryside* (1992) were amassed from his journalistic cuttings. But in his writing, as in other fields, Whitlock had a gift for bringing his experience in one sphere of activity to bear upon others at first glance quite unrelated.

As a devout Methodist, Whitlock succeeded in many aspects of his life in demonstrating the Parable of the Talents. His radio broadcasts shortly after the war served as his apprenticeship for his BBC *Children's Hour* series *Cowleaze Farm*, which ran from 1946 until the end of *Children's Hour* in 1962, for his Radio 4 series *Farming Magazine* and for his popular appearances on the panel of *Any Questions* and on BBC Television's *Slightly Quizzical*.

In 1968 Whitlock retired from farming and spent the next five years travelling in Africa, the Caribbean and India, as agricultural consultant to the Methodist Missionary Society. Here, again, his talents afforded their return when an Indian blacksmith needed to know how to make a zigzag harrow, or the dowser's fork found water for Ghanaian tribesmen.

His return to England in 1973 allowed Whitlock to continue writing. This yielded the two latter volumes of his great trilogy of life in Pitton: *The Lost Village* (1988) and *A Victorian Village* (1990), among many other works. Through his generosity these and much of his professional library is now housed at a named collection in the public library at Salisbury. His last book was published in February of this year: his autobiography was Whitlock's one major outstanding project.

Ralph Whitlock will be remembered also for his role in the establishment of the Bentley Wood Nature Reserve in 1983. This 2,000-acre area of woodland on the Hampshire-Wiltshire border was acquired through a bequest of the late Lady Colman, and Whitlock was both a trustee and honorary warden.

He is survived by his wife, Hilda, two daughters and a son.

FRANK HAMMOND

Frank Hammond, international tennis umpire, died of Lou Gehrig's disease on Staten Island, New York, on November 23 aged 66. He was born in 1929 in Manhattan.



Hammond and Ilie Nastase during their argument in the 1979 US Open Tennis Championships

WHEN professionalism came to the game of lawn tennis, changing it from a fairly genteel sport into a desperate contest for ever-larger sums of money, the players were not the only ones affected. The umpires and linesmen, who for a time remained unpaid volunteers, found their competence increasingly called into question as huge sums of money depended on their decisions. It was time for a change, going beyond the players, and during the 1970s Frank Hammond became the sport's first professional umpire and linesman.

His own decisions had rarely been questioned, ever since he began calling lines at the age of 15. He was so good at it that players would sometimes ask the referee to move a service linesman so that Hammond could take over. By common consent among the players he could control a tennis match better than anyone else, and his reliability was such that he soon found himself in demand for the leading tournaments in England, Italy and Australia, as well as in the United States.

Hammond had another talent that fitted him for the new atmosphere which professionalism brought to the tennis courts. Unlike most officials who tended to be self-effacing, he was a showman whose booming voice and flamboyant style often had the fans seeking his autograph. As a linesman, his nose would almost touch the court as he bent down to make a call.

His judgment failed him only once, but it was a notable lapse. At the 1979 United States Open, umpiring a game between Ilie Nastase and John McEnroe — two of the most dangerous players of the era from an umpire's point of view — he lost control of the match.

It happened after Hammond had disqualified Nastase in the fourth set for causing unreasonable delay, and his subsequent verbal exchanges with the players set off a near-riot in the crowd. Spectators booed for 17 minutes, some ran on to the court and fights began to break out in the stadium. The match was only resumed after Hammond had been overruled by tournament officials and ousted from the chair.

McEnroe, in a notable case of the pot calling the kettle black, later blamed Hammond's style for inciting the crowd to misbehave. Ironically, it was an incident which brought him more fame than all his impeccable decisions.

He is survived by a brother and a sister.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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THE ROYAL WEDDING

The Duke of Kent, the fourth son of the King and Queen, and Princess Marina, youngest daughter of Prince and Princess Nicholas of Greece, were married by the Archbishop of Canterbury in Westminster Abbey yesterday.

The Abbey ceremony, which was marked by stately splendour and impressive simplicity, was followed by the wedding service of the Greek Church, rich in symbolic rite, in the private chapel at Buckingham Palace.

Immense crowds assembled to watch the processions from Buckingham Palace to the Abbey and back to the Palace, and the Royal pair were enthusiastically acclaimed.

Cheering crowds also lined the route to Paddington Station in the afternoon, when the Duke and his bride started for Himley, where the first part of the honeymoon is to be spent.

After the solemn pomp of the marriage ceremony and the pageantry of the processions there were popular celebrations at night, and the theatres, cinemas, and restaurants were crowded.

The Service in the Abbey was successfully broadcast by the BBC, and it was clearly heard on the other side of the world ...

A little before a quarter to 11, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Bishop of London, the Metropolitan Germanos of Thyateira, and the Great Archimandrite Michael Constantinidis, accompanied by the Dean, passed up to their places on the medieval *sedilia* to the south of the High Altar, where the splendour of their assembled and contrasted vestments gleamed in the candlelight. The Dean then returned to the West Door that he might receive their Majesties. The Duchess of York, the Princess Royal, and the Earl of Harewood meanwhile took their seats in the Presbytery. The Duchess had brought with her the Princess Margaret Rose, who sat upon a stool at her mother's feet and for a little while held her mother's hand until she began to take a sedate and independent interest in her surroundings.

A few minutes later the procession of the King and Queen and their Royal guests passed up the Choir to the music of the first movement of Elgar's Sonata in G. The King sat on the south side of the Presbytery in the chair nearest the Lantern with the Queen on his right and the bride's mother, the Princess Nicholas of Greece, opposite him with a chair at her side left vacant for Prince Nicholas. Between the Queen and the Princess Royal were the King and Queen of Norway. A shorter procession brought in the bridegroom. The three princes all wore naval uniform with the ribbon of the Garter. Having bowed to the King, they took their places on the steps, the Prince of Wales the nearer to the Duke of Kent, with the Duke of York in his support.

A brief pause was ended by the distant singing of Stainer's "Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost" as the Princess Marina came up from the west. She passed slowly across the Lantern, her head high, her face beautiful, and the more beautiful because a little pale, her carriage very gracious.

The words "I will" were softly spoken and more softly repeated: and the Bride's father, Prince Nicholas of Greece, bowed in answer to the Archbishop's question: "Who giveth this Woman to be married to this Man?" Then, very clearly and audibly, the Duke and the Princess gave their troth to each other, hand in hand, the Princess's bouquet having been passed by the Bridegroom to the Prince of Wales, who, after a moment of hesitation, had laid it on the steps. The Duke turned again to his brother for the ring and, instructed by the Archbishop put it upon the Bride's finger, whereupon they both kneeled, and the Archbishop, joining their hands said: "Those whom God hath joined together let no man put asunder" ...

ON THIS DAY

November 30, 1934

The marriage of the Duke of Kent and Princess Marina was a brilliant occasion. They were a remarkably handsome couple. Though it was to be a happy marriage it was sadly not a long one. The Duke was killed in an air crash in the Second World War.

THE TIMES TODAY THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30 1995

NEWS

Clinton steps up peace pressure

■ *President Clinton will fly to Belfast today to tell Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionists that they must be prepared to make concessions for peace in Northern Ireland.*

Mr Clinton, the first serving President to visit the Province, will call on all parties to accept the agreement for reviving the deadlocked peace process hammered out by John Major and John Bruton on Tuesday..... **Pages 1, 2, 3**

Home loan cuts raise City hopes

■ *Mortgage rates fell in anticipation of a pre-Christmas interest rate cut after Kenneth Clarke's cautious Budget. The Halifax, the country's biggest building society, set the ball rolling by trimming 0.25 per cent off its variable rate from 7.99% to 7.74%. Abbey National followed suit and Northern Rock and Britannia also announced cuts*..... **Page 1**

Custody battle

Oliver Malkin, the 14-year-old boy at the centre of a custody battle that has seen him kidnapped at least three times, will be allowed to stay with his father, *a judge ruled*..... **Page 5**

Plea for death

A woman who suffered brain *damage after a drug overdose* almost four years ago should be allowed to die "peacefully and with dignity", her doctor told a court..... **Page 5**

MP 'in gay pub'

The Conservative MP David Ashby, who is suing for libel, was spotted by a journalist looking at young men in a well known *London gay haunt, the High* Court was told..... **Page 6**

Hedge dispute

Two grandfathers whose war over a fast-growing hedge has become one of Britain's longest *neighbourhood disputes returned* to court as unswerving as ever..... **Page 7**

Stone Age fake

An engraved bone believed to date from the Stone Age and one of only two in Britain has been shown to be a fake..... **Page 8**

Leader suspended

Dave Church, the left-wing leader of Walsall council, was suspended from the Labour Party and will be forced to relinquish control..... **Page 10**

Border debates

John Major and fellow Cabinet ministers will take part in parliamentary debates in Scotland under changes unveiled by the Government..... **Page 12**

Chimps in clover

The USAF is planning to retire the forgotten veterans of the space *programme. This could earn the* 150 ageing chimpanzees a retirement package worth up to £64 million..... **Page 13**

French porridge

Scores of British citizens jailed in northern France could apply to serve their sentences in Britain, but prefer to stay, partly because the food is superior..... **Page 14**

Castration call

Kenyan opposition MPs have called for the castration of an official who was sent away from the Commonwealth meeting after allegedly indecently assaulting a chambermaid..... **Page 15**

Collision course

Britain is set for conflict with its *European partners at next year's* conference on the Maastricht treaty, judging from the recommendations of n EU "reflection group"..... **Page 16**

Burmese tension

The main Burmese opposition group pulled out of a national convention drafting a constitution, further straining ties with the military regime..... **Page 17**

US honours Churchill's memory

■ President Clinton announced that Winston Churchill would be immortalised on the US Navy's latest warship, an honour only once previously accorded to an Englishman — King Alfred in 1775. Mr Clinton told the joint houses of Parliament that the vessel, an Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer, would become one of the most powerful in service..... **Page 1**

PETER NICHOLLS



American secret servicemen and British police wait for John Major and President Clinton to leave Downing Street yesterday

BUSINESS

Rate cut: The City remains convinced that the Chancellor will cut interest rates soon..... **Page 25**

Water: Drought-hit Yorkshire Water was criticised after the company announced a 50 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profit to £99.5 million, while two million customers continue to face possible supply cuts..... **Page 25**

Advice settlement: Cheltenham & Gloucester, the former building society now owned by Lloyds Bank, has made a £2 million settlement with people who were missold home income plans..... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 6.7 to 3655.5. Sterling's index fell from 82.9 to 82.4 after a fall from $1.5468 *to $1.5340 but a rise from* DM2.2178 to DM2.2044..... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: England will choose from a squad of 13 for the second Test against South Africa, starting today. Their strategy was confused by a soft, grassy pitch at the Wanderers ground..... **Page 48**

Athletics: Tessa Sanderson, 39, is to come out of retirement to take part in next year's Olympic Games in Atlanta. She will be the first woman athlete to compete in six Olympics..... **Page 48**

Rugby union: Kevin Bowring was appointed coach of Wales, the third incumbent in eight months but the first to be employed full-time by the *Welsh Rugby Union*..... **Page 42**

Snooker: Stephen Hendry took a 6-2 lead over Ken Doherty in the *quarter-finals of the United Kingdom championship*..... **Page 46**

ARTS

Luvvies at large: Kenneth Branagh's new film, *In the Bleak Midwinter*, chronicles the distress of a bunch of second-rate actors staging *Hamlet* on Christmas Eve. Also released is Disney's blockbuster, *The Santa Clause*..... **Page 35**

New at Court: *The Break of Day*, the new Timberlake Wertenbaker play at the Royal Court, portrays *English liberals in post-Thatcher* distress..... **Page 37**

Poor sport: At Sadler's Wells a new dance piece celebrating baseball is not as striking as its subject might suggest..... **Page 36**

Heard not seen: Radio 4's unlikely tribute to the centenary of cinema has included new radio drama concocted from those old screenplays..... **Page 35**

FEATURES

Number's up: Dyslexia — may have become a recognised handicap but intelligent children who cannot master arithmetic are still dismissed as slow..... **Page 18**

Valerie Grove: "I was never excited by jewellery but I enjoyed selling" — Gerald Ratner..... **Page 19**

Kate Muir: For foreigners, the sheer *feminine mystery of the French female is a code everyone would like* to crack..... **Page 19**

BOOKS

Last Tsar: Nicholas II was too nice, says Norman Stone. Lord Skidelsky on the SDP; John Weightman on André Breton; Count Adam Zamoyski on the Habsburgs; Alain de Botton on Will Self **Pages 38, 39**

TRAVEL

Seeking Santa: Record numbers of Britons are expected to take their children to Lapland..... **Page 40**

THE PAPERS

Now it's another conservative's *turn to take the heat from the* people who created this horrible [welfare] system. Dan Quayle was right then; Newt Gringrich is right today — *Wall Street Journal*

Preserving US international leadership, and the Nato alliance as well, certainly is in our interest. For these reasons we should go [into Bosnia]. Warily and prayerfully — *Washington Times*



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **TOP OF THE FLOPS**
Have singing soldiers Robson and Jerome recorded a cracker or a turkey for Christmas?

■ **EDUCATION**
Are the new A level exams failing the brightest because they are too easy?

TV & RADIO

Preview: The pioneer of birth control comes under revisionist scrutiny in *Secret Lives: Marie Stopes* (Channel 4, 9.00pm) **Review:** Matthew *Bond* cannot have enough of Inspector Morse..... **Page 47**

OPINION

After the visit

Republican terrorists *are being* asked not to surrender but to behave as democratic politicians. For men *habituated* to bloodshed, this is a difficult prospect..... **Page 21**

Alone again, or not

Europe's peoples know — even if their leaders do not — that the weighting of votes for the Council of Ministers is not the most urgent problem..... **Page 21**

Space ape emeritus

How does one *spend $100 million* on a simian retreat? A chimpanzee's tastes are normally quite simple, even those of one who has travelled in a spacecraft for God and America..... **Page 21**

OBITUARIES

JANET DALEY
Is it now *illegal for any job to* include conditions which preclude any possible liability that only a female would encounter?.. **Page 20**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG
Perhaps the Conservative Party should now look for the grand old leadership gene of the Plantagenets. Are there any Tory descendants of King Edward I or shall we have to go to *Jamaica?*..... **Page 20**

JOHN BRYANT
British sports missionaries have a great tradition. It *was through* their games that the empire-building British of the 19th century carried much of their home-grown culture to their colonies.... **Page 46**

PETER RIDDELL
By failing to address the long-term issues Kenneth Clarke has ensured that the tax burden will remain high and will rise..... **Page 12**

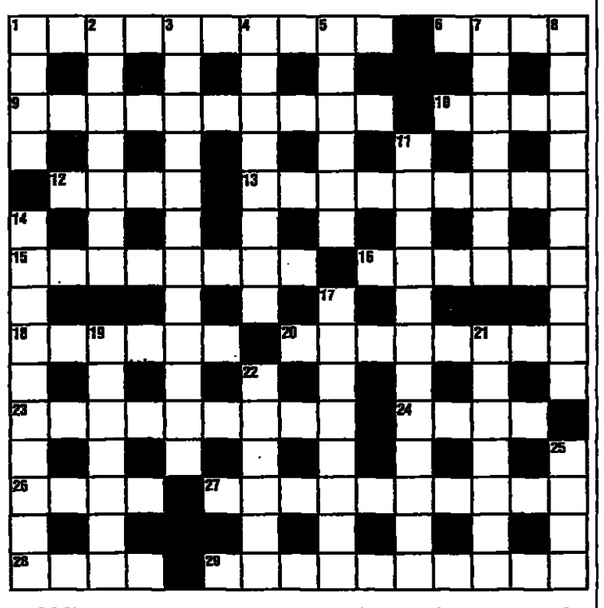
OBITUARIES

***Sydney Bailey**, writer and pacifist; **Primrose Bordier**, textile designer; **Frank Hammond**, tennis umpire; **Ralph Whitlock**, writer and farmer*..... **Page 23**

LETTERS

Ireland; modern buildings; Mr Collins and the Bennet entail; Russian elections..... **Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,026



ACROSS

1 Frequency modulation sounds natural to the listener and soft (10).
6 Prune spruce (4).
9 Winning the auction with striking *instruction (10).*
10 Just a little too pale for a gem (4).
12 So taken aback as this monster appears (4).
13 In recession, looked after allowance for relation (9).
15 Catch too many in the deep? (8).
16 *Scrape off a false beard (6).*
18 Insect is poisonous, I wager (6).
20 Aircraft body in recurrent high wind protected by safety device (8).
23 It takes a lot of punishment to make puppet hero dance (5-4).
24 *Bird hasn't left the river* (4).
26 Merciless sarcasm not unknown (4).
27 Period of original costume for theatrical part (5,5).
28 Smack knocks insect back (4).
29 Recommendation on penny share, for example (10).

DOWN

1 Point-to-point Gray viewed from a distance (4).
2 Tiredness — it's showing up in loud complaint (7).
3 Girl on the stairs is going up for the first time (6,6).
4 Northern valleys in America seen in natural state (8).
5 Guaranteed permanent employment to clear up the river (6).
7 Page in souvenir has a reproduction (7).
8 *Erring male, perhaps, who is out* to avoid work? (10).
11 He might make labourers be disorderly, right? (6-6).
14 Chap right on the spot in the field (5-5).
17 Beef not available, so make a start with game (5,3).
19 Weakened, having reduction in numbers (3-4).
21 Keep away from bishop in a disgrace (7).
22 Prevent free movement in the case of food (6).
25 Measure the sound of the riders and hounds (4).

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Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereids & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
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M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
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North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp:Penzance, Cornwall, 14C (57F) ; lowest day max: Buxton, Derbyshire 7C (45F) ; highest rainfall: Pembrey Sands, Dyfed, 0.98in; highest sunshine: Kinloss, Moray, Firth 3.9hr

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FORECAST

General: most of England and Wales will have a dry day with sunny spells. *Some eastern and southern counties* will be rather grey and misty for a time in the morning, but should brighten later. A few coastal areas in eastern England will remain quite dull with perhaps a little drizzle. Thicker cloud and patchy rain may reach the far southwest in the evening.

Much of Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a fine but rather windy day, with broken cloud and sunshine at times. The east coast of Scotland will be cloudy and damp. A little rain is likely in parts of Northern Ireland during the evening.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands, E England, Central N:** patchy mist or cloud breaking, then some sunshine. Wind southeasterly, moderate, occasionally fresh. Cooler. *Max 9C to 11C (48F to 52F).*

☐ **Central S England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, N Wales, N W England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland:** dry with sunny spells. Wind southeasterly, moderate to fresh, locally strong. Max 9C to 11C (48F to 52F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales, Northern Ireland:** mostly dry, some sunshine. Patchy rain in the evening. Wind southeasterly, fresh, locally strong. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** rather cloudy, a little coastal drizzle. Wind southeasterly, moderate to fresh. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** rather cloudy, occasional showers. Wind southeasterly, strong. Max 8C (46F).

Outlook: showery rain slowly spreading from the west; mainly dry in the *southeast.*

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

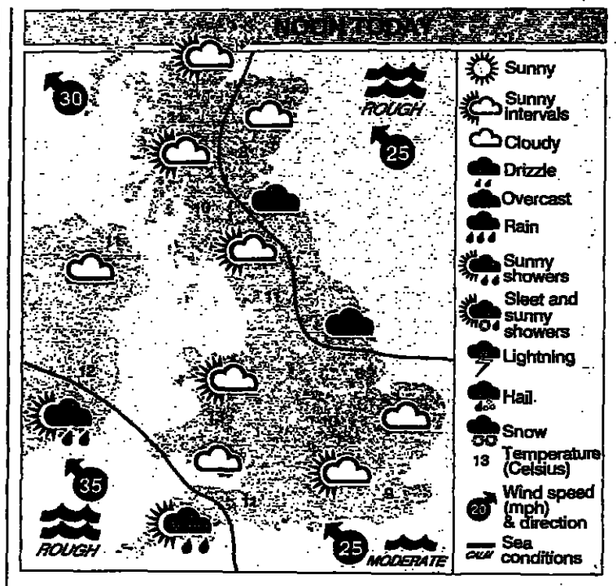
	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.3	-	9	48	b	Littlehmptn	-	0.02	12	54	c
Anglesey	1.4	0.01	11	52	b	Liverpool	0.2	0.01	11	52	c
Aspatria	0.8	-	11	52	r	London	1.6	0.01	13	55	c
Aviemore	1.3	-	9	48	c	Lowestoft	3.1	-	11	52	b
Belfast	0.5	0.07	11	53	sh	Manchester	1.5	0.02	11	52	c
Birmingham	0.4	0.21	10	50	r	Margate	2.0	-	11	52	b
Bognor R	-	0.03	12	54	c	Minehead	0.9	0.22	12	54	c
Bournem'th	1.2	-	13	55	c	Morecambe	0.7	-	12	54	b
Bristol	0.6	0.06	12	54	c	Newcastle	-	-	10	50	r
Buxton	-	0.35	7	45	d	Newquay	0.5	0.82	13	55	sh
Cardiff	2.2	0.18	11	52	sh	Norwich	1.2	-	11	52	b
Clacton	1.5	-	10	50	c	Nottingham	X				
Cleethorpes	X					Oxford	2.3	0.23	11	52	b
Colwyn Bay	X					Penzance	-	0.26	14	57	r
Cromer	2.7	-	12	54	b	Plymouth	X				
Doncaster	X					Poole	1.1	-	13	55	c
Dunbar	X					Prestatyn	X	0.02	11	52	c
Eastbourne	1.3	-	11	52	c	Ross-o-wye	0.6	0.13	12	54	c
Edinburgh	0.7	0.02	11	52	b	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	9	48	sh	Scarborough	X	-			
Exmouth	0.1	0.04	12	54	c	Sandown	-	0.04	12	54	c
Falmouth	0.6	0.45	13	55	r	Saunton Snd	1.8	0.06	13	55	b
Fishguard	0.4	0.46	11	52	sh	Scarboro'	0.9	0.01	10	50	b
Folkestone	2.6	-	11	52	b	Shanklin	0.2	0.04	12	54	c
Glasgow	2.4	-	12	54	b	Shrewsbury	-	0.06	10	50	c
Guernsey	0.6	0.01	12	54	c	Skegness	0.2	-	9	48	c
Hastings	2.0	-	11	52	b	Southend	-	-	11	52	du
Hayling I.	-	0.01	11	52	c	Southport	0.4	-	11	52	b
Herne Bay	2.3	-	11	52	b	Stornoway	3.5	-	10	50	b
Hove	X					Swanage	X				
Hunstanton	0.6	-	11	52	b	Teignmouth	0.3	0.19	13	55	sh
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	X				
Isle of Man	-	0.05	11	52	sh	Tiree	0.1	0.02	11	52	r
Jersey	0.4	0.01	11	52	b	Torquay	0.3	0.22	12	54	c
Kinloss	3.9	0.09	9	48	b	Tynemouth	-	0.02	X	X	c
Leeds	-	0.08	9	48	r	Ventnor	0.3	0.10	12	54	c
Lerwick	-	-	8	46	sh	West-s-mare	X				
Leuchars	-	0.07	9	48	sh	Weymouth	X	0.04	12	54	sh

ABROAD

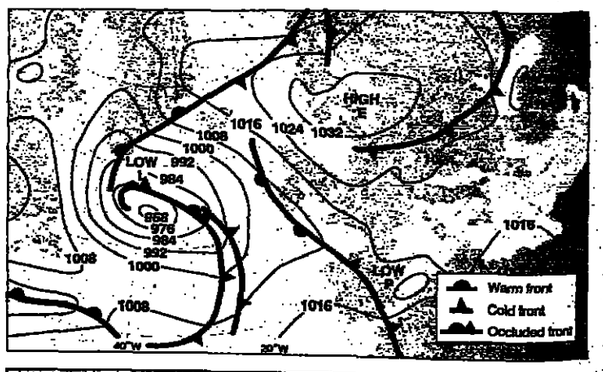
Ajaccio	17	63	s	C'phagn	5	41	s	Malaga	18	64	f
Alicatri	17	63	s	Dublin	11	52	c	Malta	18	64	f
Alex'dria	19	66	f	Dubrovnik	15	59	s	Melb'rne	19	66	s
Algiers	19	66	s	Faro	15	59	f	Mexico C	18	64	s
Amst'dm	6	43	c	Florence	7	45	c	Miami	27	81	f
Athens	18	64	f	Frankfurt	3	37	d	Milan	8	46	f
B Aires	28	82	s	Funchal	17	63	r	Montreal	-4	25	-
Bahrain	22	72	f	Geneva	7	45	s	Moscow	-11	12	s
Bangkok	33	91	s	Gibraltar	17	63	f	Munich	3	37	c
Barbados	29	84	s	Helsinki	-1	30	s	N Delhi	24	75	s
Beirut	18	64	f	Hong K	23	73	s	N York	16	61	f
Belgrade	9	48	f	Innsbrck	4	39	f	Nairobi	25	77	c
Berlin	1	34	c	Istanbul	11	52	f	Naples	16	61	s
Bermuda	22	72	s	Jeddah	28	82	f	Nice	12	54	s
Biarritz	18	61	s	Jo'burg	23	73	s	Oslo	-3	27	f
Borde'x	10	50	c	L Angels	21	70	f	Paris	3	37	c
Brussels	9	48	s	L Palmas	23	73	f	Peking	11	52	s
Budapst	6	43	r	Le Tquet	9	48	s	Perth	21	70	c
Cairo	21	70	s	Lisbon	12	54	r	Prague	-1	30	c
Cape Tn	13	55	r	Locarno	9	48	s	Reykjavik	1	34	sn
Ch'church	18	64	s	Luxembg	3	37	fg	Rhodes	18	64	s
Chicago	-2	28	s	Luxor	22	72	f	Rio de J	22	72	f
Cologne	6	43	c	Madrid	10	50	c	Rio de J	23	73	f
Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	18	64	f	Riyadh	14	57	r
								Rome	16	61	f
								S Fr'isco	15	59	s
								Salzburg	4	39	c
								Santiago	26	79	s
								Seoul	10	50	s
								Sing'por	31	88	f
								St'kholm	-1	30	s
								Strasb'rg	5	41	c
								Sydney	27	81	f
								Tangier	18	64	f
								Tel Aviv	21	70	s
								Tenerife	23	73	f
								Tokyo	14	57	s
								Toronto	-3	27	f
								Tunis	15	59	r
								Valencia	14	57	c
								Vanc'ver	9	48	c
								Venice	9	48	c
								Vienna	3	37	c
								Warsaw	-1	30	c
								Wash'ton	17	63	f
								Wel'ngton	16	61	c
								Zurich	7	45	c

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available

MOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: High E will maintain central pressure and drift south. Low L will slowly move north and fill a little. Low P will fill in situ.



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7:09	6.33	8:02	6.49	Leith	8:44	4.88	9:09	4.89
Aberdeen	7:47	3.69	7:54	3.77	Liverpool	5:02	8.03	5:32	8.20
Avonmouth	0:35	10.96	1:15	11.10	Lowestoft	2:32	2.35	4:24	2.22
Belfast	5:20	2.95	5:35	3.17	Margate	5:35	4.26	6:32	4.22
Cardiff	0:24	10.01	1:03	10.06	Milford Haven	–	–	0:26	6.03
Devonport	11:48	4.83	–	–	Newquay	11:18	5.77	–	–
Dover	4:43	5.97	5:39	5.84	Oban	–	–	0:34	3.32
Dublin	6:00	3.67	6:09	3.94	Penzance	10:50	4.73	11:38	4.46
Falmouth	11:27	4.56	–	–	Portland	0:01	1.57	0:15	1.65
Glasgow	6:15	4.22	6:43	4.22	Portsmouth	5:15	4.30	5:40	4.05
Harwich	5:16	3.62	6:05	3.66	Shoreham	5:04	5.42	5:38	5.15
Holyhead	4:26	4.68	4:43	4.99	Southampton	4:45	4.09	5:15	3.92
Hull	–	–	0:47	8.24	Swansea	–	–	0:29	8.07
Ilfracombe	–	–	0:01	8.07	Tees	9:58	4.65	10:13	4.74
King's Lynn	–	–	0:23	5.41	W'lton-on-Nze	5.17	3.74	8:09	3.98

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.42 am
Sun sets: 3.56 pm
Moon sets 12.20 am
Moon rises 12.58 pm

London 3.56 pm to 7.44 am
Bristol 4.06 pm to 7.53 am
Edinburgh 3.48 pm to 8.19 am
Manchester 3.55 pm to 8.01 am
Penzance 4.24 pm to 7.59 am

Full moon December 7

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30 1995

Halifax leads mortgage rates lower

BY ROBERT MILLER, JANET BUSH AND COLIN NARBROUGH

THE HALIFAX, Britain's largest mortgage lender, gave the home loans market a much-needed boost yesterday with a surprise post-Budget quarter-point interest rate cut.

Competitors, including Abbey National and Nationwide, followed suit immediately. Others pledged to cut their rate soon.

The move might presage a base rate cut by the Bank of England before Christmas.

The new Halifax standard mortgage rate of 7.74 per cent, which takes effect from January 1, reduces monthly payments on a £30,000 repayment mortgage by £4.07 to £206.45 while the saving on a £50,000 home loan will fall by £7.37 to £352.68. The Abbey said it would cut its rate by 0.2 per cent but said that "unlike Halifax" it had three different rates with discounts for larger loans. Northern Rock cut its rate by 0.4 per cent to 7.59 per cent and said this represented a monthly saving of £17 on a typical £50,000 home loan.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, which has removed the generous cash-back deals for new borrowers, said: "We want to help existing borrowers and homebuyers. With the housing market poised for an upturn and combined with tax cuts from the Budget this measure will help to encourage a sustained recovery. The current trend for interest rates is downward and we believe that when it is possible to do so, we should pass on lower rates to our customers."

Calls for a cut in base rates has been mountingsince Kenneth Clarke completed his Budget speech on Tuesday.

The FT-SE 100 index built on its impressive recent gains, closing 6.7 points higher at a new record of 3,655.5 and gilts continued to march ahead on hopes that a base rate cut will follow the December 13 meeting between the Chancellor and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

Adding even more weight to the excitement in the financial markets was a forceful call from the Confederation of British Industry for an immediate half-point reduction in base rates to bolster faltering economic growth.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the CBI president, said in a statement after the CBI was briefed by the Treasury on the Budget that "conditions are now right for a sustainable reduction in interest rates".

He said the Budget was a responsible one, but that it only provided a "mild stimulus" to the economy. With the favourable inflation outlook, and continued slow growth, the CBI considered the "time is right" for a cut of half a percentage point in interest rates.

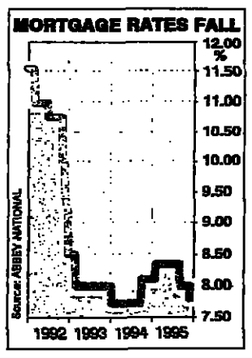
CBI council members welcomed the Halifax cut in its mortgage lending rate as a sign that everybody was starting to move in the "right direction".

But Mr Clarke said yesterday that he was confident that the economy had enough momentum to fulfil his prediction of 3 per cent growth next year without lower base rates. He said that he had agreed to the new, more open framework of monetary policy precisely to free himself and the economy from short-term political pressures and said that, as usual, decisions on rates would be decided with the Governor of the Bank of England at their monthly meetings.

His attempts to play down the prospect of rate cuts had little impact on the euphoria in the markets. A majority in the City believes that the relative tightness of the Budget leaves interest rates as the obvious tool to stimulate the economy. Goldman Sachs, the American investment bank, said that sizeable base rate cuts now seem to be on the way — larger than the markets are currently expecting.

Pennington, page 27
Economic View, page 29

MORTGAGE RATES FALL



Poor are worse off after Budget

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor delivered a Budget for Middle and Upper Britain, with the top 10 per cent the biggest gainers by far and the bottom 20 per cent of the population actually worse off after the measures.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies disputed the Government's claim that the average family is £9 a week better off after the Budget, saying that the true figure is £2.20. The Government's figure included an assumption of both inflation and earnings growth next year as well as the Budget's tax changes.

The bottom 10 per cent of the population in terms of income is left 29 pence a week worse off, while the 10 per cent of people above them are 19 pence poorer. Non-smokers in these two brackets fare slightly less badly. In stark contrast, the top 10 per cent of the population has gained £7.30 extra a week from the Chancellor.

Dividing the population into different types of household, a family with two earners but no children comes off best with a gain of £4.32 a week. Next in line is the family with two earners and children which is £3.81 better off. An unemployed couple with children is the biggest loser, with 26 pence less to live on each week.

Pensioners do reasonably well in comparison with other groups, largely because of the change in taxation to their savings income.

The IFS has calculated that 1.5 million pensioners will gain from the taxation changes to savings income, with 750,000 of these being better off by more than £1 a week.

Clarke speech add fuels rebate talk

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SPECULATION revived yesterday that Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, may announce more rebates from the privatised utilities when he opens the Budget debate today.

Electricity customers are set to receive £50 in the new year from the sale of the National Grid, but there have been rumours that the Government has been in secret talks with water and electricity companies in an attempt to persuade them to give a further £150 in cash-back schemes.

The subject has come back on the agenda because of the discovery of a last-minute addition to the text of the Budget speech. The passage, inserted just before the Chancellor told Parliament he would not be imposing a windfall tax on the utilities, said: "I turn now to the utilities. My Right Honourable Friend, the President of the Board of Trade, will speak about the regulatory regime which protects consumers in his speech in the Budget debate on Thursday."

Andrew Dilnot, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, speculated yesterday that the Government might still be in negotiations about rebates but that no decision could be struck in time for the Budget.

The Chancellor said yesterday that the Grid rebate in the new year would help to buoy consumer spending.

Treasury and DTI officials declined to comment on yesterday's speculation.



JOHN ANGERSON

John Layfield this week unveiled measures to protect water supplies costing £75 million

Yorkshire Water lifts profit by half

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

DROUGHT-HIT Yorkshire Water ran into a storm of criticism yesterday, after the company announced a 50 per cent rise in half-year pre-tax profit to £99.5 million, while two million customers continue to face possible supply cuts.

The company promised an extra £75 million to deal with water shortages in an announcement by John Layfield, director of production and technology, this week. But Yorkshire's critics maintain that it has repeatedly benefited shareholders at the expense of customers. The company announced a further 10 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 9.1p yesterday. The dividend is due on February 26.

Paul Taylor, Ofwat's Yorkshire regional director, said: "The company is in a very healthy position and can easily make the investments necessary to avoid water cuts.

"There have to be questions asked about the quality of the company's management. A better balance should be struck between customers and shareholders."

Trevor Newton, chief executive, defended his company's record through the drought, blaming the freak weather which saw rainfall in the normally wet West Yorkshire region at below 50 per cent of normal levels. He said measures Yorkshire had taken had prevented any cuts in supply, although parts of the region were still under a hosepipe ban and the company still had the power to impose rota cuts.

The £75 million in increased capital expenditure will be used to tackle the supply problems highlighted by the drought, which Yorkshire said had so far added an extra £20 million to operating costs.

The company also said Malcolm Batty, finance director, was stepping down, to be succeeded by Brian Wilson, formerly of Norweb.

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3655.5	(+6.7)
Yield	3.92%	
FT-SE A All share	1784.61	(+3.2)
Nikkei	18533.98	(–154.44)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5079.91	(+1.81)*
S&P Composite	605.77	(–0.68)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¾%*	(5 11/16%)
Long Bond	108 11/32*	(108⅜)
Yield	6.23%*	(6.23%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6⅛%	(6 1/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	109 25/32	(109 15/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5375*	(1.5430)
London:		
$	1.5359	(1.5493)
DM	2.2064	(2.2188)
FFr	7.5770	(7.6095)
SFr	1.7870	(1.7893)
Yen	155.87	(156.68)
£ Index	82.4	(82.9)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4354*	(1.4330)
FFr	4.9332*	(4.9155)
SFr	1.1625*	(1.1575)
Yen	101.45*	(101.20)
$ Index	93.7	(93.4)

Tokyo close Yen 101.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	$16.85	($16.85)

GOLD

London close	$389.50	($388.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Lloyd's plea

Ron Sandler, the new chief executive of Lloyd's of London, said that putting the insurance market into liquidation would not be a panacea for members problems. The response came to assertions by a group of names that some would be better off if the market ceased trading. Page 26

Price war

Argyll, the supermarket group, yesterday revealed that a costly price war has flared up between the big four food retailers over the lucrative run-up to Christmas. Page 27

Trust will fund nuclear clean-up

BY ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A TRUST company is to be set up in Scotland to fund the decommissioning of Britain's modern nuclear stations when they are privatised next summer, Tim Eggar, Energy Minister, said.

The company will receive funds from British Energy, the nuclear operator to be privatised in a £2.6 billion flotation. The trust company will collect funds and pay out when decommissioning work is done. Liabilities of British Energy and Magnox Electric, its sister company, which is to stay in the public sector, are thought to total £8.6 billion.

Creation of the trust fund will defuse one of the toughest issues of the nuclear sale. Concern over open-ended liabilities for spent plants and fuel scuppered a previous attempt by ministers to sell the nuclear power industry in 1989.

In evidence to the cross-party Parliamentary Trade and Industry Select Committee, Mr Eggar said: "The funding company will be owned by an independent trust, and will enter into a contract with the privatised companies under which it will receive funds, invest them and make payments from the invested funds to meet long-term de-commissioning costs. The arrangements will come into effect on privatisation next summer".

Mr Eggar said the fund would cover the liabilities of the seven advanced gas-cooled reactors and the one pressurised-water reactor owned by Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear. Mr Eggar said the Scottish trust company would be advised by independent actuaries on the sums of money needed now to meet liabilities decades, or centuries ahead. In studies to date, the Government has used the 25-year gilts yield as a benchmark suggesting a discount rate of 3.5 per cent was appropriate.

Falklands deal signed

BRITISH Gas has teamed up with an Argentinian company in the search for oil and gas around the Falkland Islands.

If encouraging, British Gas and its Argentine partner, YPF, may bid jointly for exploration blocks being offered by the Falkland Islands Government.

Under an agreement signed in London yesterday, British Gas and YPF will share the costs. British Gas will head the study group.

C&G in mis-selling settlement

BY ROBERT MILLER

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER, now part of Lloyds Bank, has made a £2 million settlement with some of the elderly victims who were mis-sold home income plans.

C&G still faces a separate multimillion-pound legal action by hundreds more investors. This is being co-ordinated by the Investors Compensation Scheme, the official safety net for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud, over home income plans sold by Aylesbury Associates, a failed firm of independent financial advisers. The ICS has paid out more than £6 million in compensation to 279 former Aylesbury investors and is now looking to recoup that money through the courts.

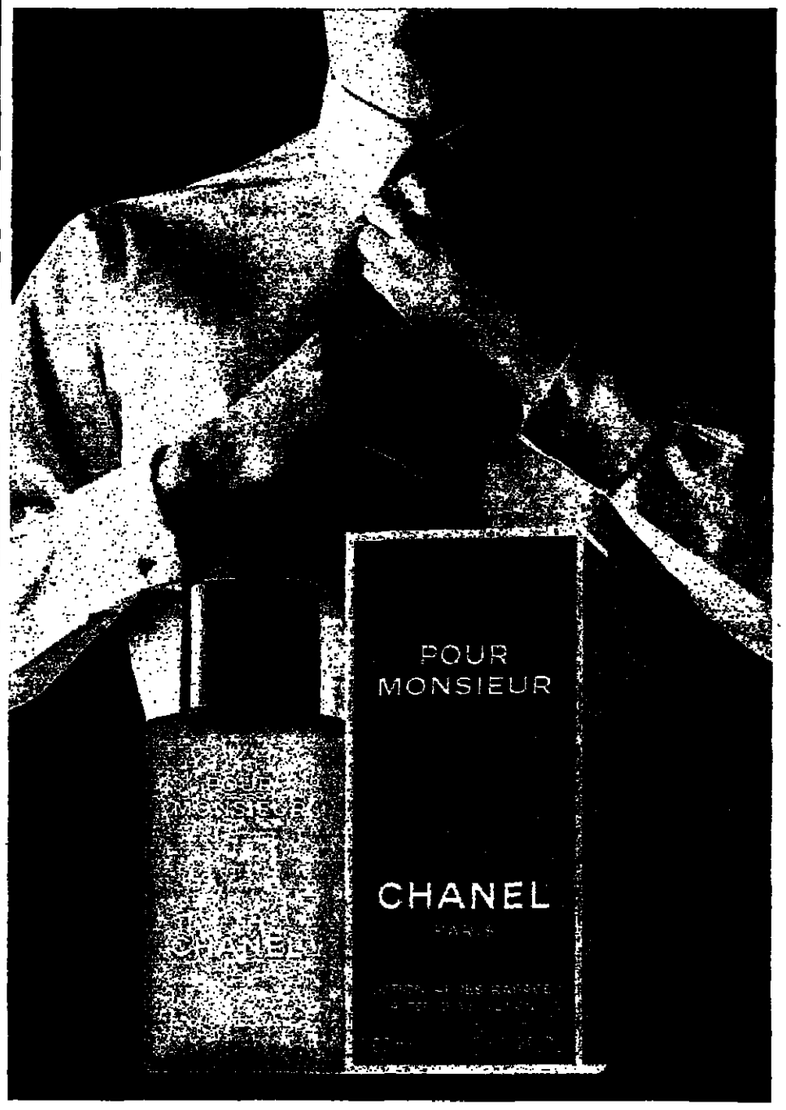
Earlier this month, the ICS was given the go-ahead in the High Court to pursue C&G. The retail mortgage lending arm of Lloyds Bank was given until December 12 to lodge an appeal but said last night that no decision had yet been made.

C&G admits that it provided the mortgage funding for the Aylesbury plans, which were linked to stock market bonds and have since been banned by the regulators, but has consistently denied it was responsible for selling them.

The precise nature of yesterday's surprise settlement, which involves 27 investors who took separate legal action and who by-passed the ICS in favour of using the courts, was being kept confidential between C&G and Harrison Clark, the Worcester law firm representing the investors. It is understood that C&G will pay the investors' legal costs of almost £1 million as well as agreeing to waive the interest on outstanding loans, which until the settlement, was calculated on a daily basis. The average loan was between £35,000 and £40,000 and could cost at least another £1 million in lost interest.

The investors have been assured that they can remain in their homes for the rest of their lives. Where there is an outstanding debt on the property, however, C&G has the right to recover that money from the estate of the late owners.

The ICS has also issued writs against nine other building societies, including West Bromwich, National Counties and Bristol & West, over the discredited home income plans. The compensation scheme has paid out more than £45 million to 2,500 elderly plan investors.



POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS
CHANEL

OECD approves US line

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE risks of either a recession or a renewed boom in the American economy are low and a cautious stance on interest rates is advisable, according to the latest report on the US by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In a broadly favourable review of US developments, it applauds the interest rate policy of the US Federal Reserve as well as the political consensus in favour of balancing the budget.

However, the OECD says that there is a danger that further reductions in short-term interest rates might prove inappropriate and could need to be quickly reversed.

It believes that the economy has achieved a soft landing and that the recovery will now enter into its fifth year with no major macro-economic problems. Growth in 1996 is expected to be around 2.5 per cent and underlying inflation stable.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.16	2.00
Austria Sch	16.60	15.10
Belgium Fr	48.67	44.37
Canada $	2.206	2.046
Cyprus Cypf	0.738	0.683
Denmark Kr	9.19	8.39
Finland Mak	7.16	6.51
France Fr	8.02	7.37
Germany Dm	2.37	2.16
Greece Dr	384.00	358.00
Hong Kong $	12.60	11.60
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.5000
Italy Lira	2572.00	2417.00
Japan Yen	170.70	154.70
Malta	0.592	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.634	2.404
New Zealand $	2.50	2.26
Norway Kr	10.35	9.55
Portugal Esc	242.50	224.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.41
Spain Pta	195.50	182.50
Sweden Kr	10.70	9.90
Switzerland Fr	1.92	1.74
Turkey Lira	refer	80510.0
USA $	1.644	1.514

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

ALAN WELLER



Global view: Sir Neil Shaw, Tate & Lyle's chairman, with Larry Pillard, the new group managing director

Liquidation of Lloyd's 'not answer for names'

BY SARAH BAGNALL

RON SANDLER, the new chief executive of Lloyd's of London, said yesterday that putting it into liquidation would not be a panacea for names' problems.

In response to assertions by a membership group that some names would be better off if the insurance market ceased trading, Lloyd's has sent out a document analysing the implications of such a move.

In a letter to members' agents, Mr Sandler said that the memorandum "sets out very clearly why we [the Council of Lloyd's] believe that insolvency or some form of managed run-off is not an attractive option for names". The document, *Reconstruction and Renewal: Implications of Run-Off*, states that the council is convinced that run-off would inflict severe damage on names and they would not be able to avoid their liabilities.

It claims that it is wrong to think that the mechanism for collecting money would break down or that Lloyd's, or other regulators, would lack the resolve or the determination to ensure that names met their obligations in full.

Lloyd's sought confirmation from the Department of Trade and Industry that policyholders' rights would be the first priority if the ministry exercised its powers of intervention. Those include powers to require all names to maintain sufficient assets in trust to meet all their obligations.

A further conclusion of the document is that names' losses are likely to escalate and demands for payment accelerate. This is because the council predicts a rush by policyholders to secure their claims that would be likely to cause syndicates without the funds to defend actions by claimants.

The council also argues that there would be a spiral of defaulting reinsurance recoveries across the market, which would escalate names' losses as syndicates were unable to collect from syndicates with which they had reinsured.

Lloyd's argues that no alternative to the reconstruction and renewal programme, which includes a £2.8 billion settlement package, has been suggested. However, Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's Names Associations' Working Party, revealed that it would be publishing a serious discussion paper on Monday on the impact of putting Lloyd's into run-off.

The action group claims that the paper will "present the case for an orderly run-off as a viable alternative to reconstruction and renewal with" a view to providing names will all the facts necessary to make an objective choice".

Pennington, page 27

Tate & Lyle looks abroad

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE world's biggest sugar company is continuing its push overseas and last year spent £116 million expanding its global interests.

Tate & Lyle — which this week announced a boardroom shake-up in which Sir Neil Shaw, the group's chief executive and chairman, is to abandon his executive duties — is focusing its efforts largely on the emerging markets. There it hopes to serve the demand for healthier lifestyles with its food processing and sweeteners.

The company has targeted its resources on cane mills in China, Mexico and Zambia in the year to September 30. Subsequently, it has taken a majority stake in a refinery in the Ukraine.

Sir Neil Shaw, the chairman who is shifting towards retirement in two years' time with a gradual easing of his responsibilities, said: "Demand for sugar and food ingredients is growing substantially faster in these markets than in the more developed markets in which the group's assets are primarily deployed."

Tate is aiming to secure about a quarter of its operating profits from developing markets in the short term, and is looking to compensate for flat margins in Europe with accelerating ones elsewhere in the world.

The company, which recently switched its political support to the Labour Party, produced pre-tax profits at the upper end of expectations with improving contributions from its US starch and sugar businesses.

Although Tate warned of pressure on prices in the North American market, the US sweeteners and starch business contributed £170.9 million in the period, up from £147.6 million previously. Europe mustered £144.3 million compared with £136.5 million.

Pre-tax profits for the year rose 13.6 per cent to £311.1 million. The final dividend, payable February 6, was set at 11p. This brings the total to 16p, a rise of 11 per cent on the previous year.

Tempus, page 28

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

UK urged to buy European weapons

A KEY report, calling for the Government to adopt a more pro-European strategy for buying weapons has been approved after more than a month of wrangling by members of two cross-party select committees. The first draft of the report from a joint enquiry by the Commons Trade and Industry and Defence select committees was blocked by some Conservative right-wingers last month. But a compromise has now been struck and the committee is set to publish its findings within a fortnight.

The Government has become highly sensitive to criticism of its failure to back British defence manufacturers in the face of rapid consolidation of the defence industry in America. Dick Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, said at the annual conference of the Confederation of British Industry that governments must pursue collective procurement policies if Europe's arms makers are to remain competitive.

Mortgage challenge

BUILDING societies are set to lose their traditional dominance of the mortgage market to banks, according to one of the world's leading credit rating agencies. In a special report on the financial creditworthiness of UK building societies, Standard & Poor's says that this summer's £1.8 billion takeover of Cheltenham & Gloucester by Lloyds Bank and the proposed £1.4 billion acquisition of National & Provincial by Abbey National will lift the banks' share of the £350 billion mortgage market to 38 per cent compared with just 5.5 per cent in 1980.

Lang plea on contracts

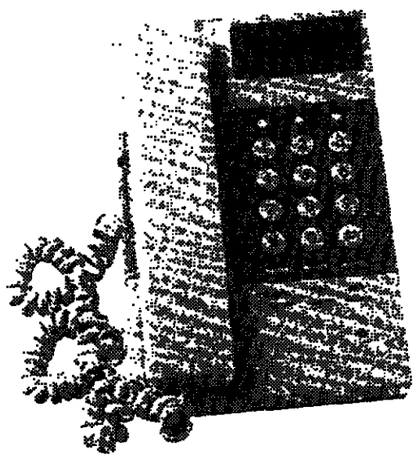
IAN LANG, the President of the Board of Trade, told companies yesterday to avoid long-notice contracts for directors but rejected demands that shareholders' approval should be sought for contracts of more than 12 months. Mr Lang conceded that there were "payment for failure" cases in which directors had received "large pay-offs when unsatisfactory performance has prompted early termination of their contracts". He said that reducing the length of notice would help cut costs to companies and shareholders and said that notice should generally be restricted to 12 months.

WTO panel chosen

THE World Trade Organisation, the free trade watchdog, has finally chosen the panel of experts, officially called the Appellate Body, to be final arbiters in international trade disputes. Chosen after protracted argument, they are James Bacchus, the former US congressman, Klaus-Dieter Ehrlermann, a German trade lawyer, Mitsuo Matsushita, a Japanese academic, Christopher Beeby, a New Zealand trade diplomat, Florentino Feliciano, a Philippine supreme court judge, Said el-Naggar, an Egyptian academic, and Julio Lacarte Muro, a Uruguayan trade diplomat.

TSB merger approval

SHAREHOLDERS at TSB's extraordinary meeting in Glasgow yesterday approved the bank's planned takeover by Lloyds Bank. As well as approving the merger, they authorised their directors to enable participants in Lloyds's share option scheme to be granted options over new Lloyds TSB shares, and approved the name change. Lloyds's shareholders approved the £13.6 billion deal on Monday. The two will next seek High Court approval for a scheme of arrangement to enable the reverse takeover of TSB by Lloyds to take place. The hearing is on December 18.



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صكذا من الاصل

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☐ Mortgage lenders pre-empt the markets ☐ Names warned of pain of Lloyd's collapse ☐ Ministers take stick to jobless

Quick to the cut

☐ WHAT a vibrant, fast-moving business mortage lending now is. The fusty old days of caution and sobriety have been swapped for a giddy bidding round that would not shame a lively afternoon in the Liffe pits.

Consider the excitement yesterday afternoon. Once the market had absorbed the implications of Tuesday's Budget, interest rate cuts that were already widely expected looked a racing certainty.

In the bad old days of boring building societies, the latter would have waited for the proper announcement of a base rate cut through the usual channels before reducing their own rates. One or two old fuddy-duddies, bless them, might even have delayed a couple of days, to see if the new rate was going to stick.

By 10am yesterday the Halifax, the biggest mortage lender and determined to stay that way, had responded to market rumours of an imminent rate cut by announcing "no immediate plans" for such a move. This, as any spiv in the market knows, is a cunning code for "expect cuts immediately," and the quarter-point reduction was duly announced at 2pm.

Within 20 minutes, the Nationwide and the Abbey National had the situation under review, and their own cuts were duly announced over the next two hours. The rush to reduce rates had been encouraged by the Budget itself, which by trimming the rate of tax paid by the country's 14 million savers had managed to widen the effective margin between lending and borrowing rates.

But wait. It is a compelling irony that this pre-emptive strike by the mortgage lenders may even militate against a move from the Chancellor. If the private sector is prepared to act alone in trying to kick-start the housing market, why should the Government agonise too much about leading base rates lower?

Here are two counter-arguments to assumptions of a cut after the December 13 meeting between Chancellor and Bank. First, sterling has slumped to record lows since the Budget and the Bank will be uncomfortable about that.

Second, Kenneth Clarke has pencilled in an optimistic assumption of 3 per cent growth for next year, based on growing consumer confidence. This is above any estimate of Britain's long-range sustainable growth rate, so the Chancellor could be taking a risk on inflation by cutting rates. He also claimed yesterday that the economy is well placed to push ahead with rates where they are.

Perhaps this was just natural optimism after a Budget universally acknowledged to be dull. If the markets are discounting lower base rates, why shouldn't the Chancellor give himself a little cost-free dividend for his caution? Over and above that, Mr Clarke is probably vastly overestimating the economy's ability to bounce back. Lower rates would therefore prove necessary — to the relief of the big mortgage lenders.

Sibling rivalry at Lloyd's

☐ LLOYD'S of London has long resembled a dysfunctional family, and the recent divorce of the parents, Peter Middleton and David Rowland, has sent tremors through the multitude of squabbling children and grandchildren. Relations between the various factions that make up the extended family are strained in



the extreme. Rowland and his new partner, Ron Sandler, are working hard at trying to pull all the names together in the face of adversity, but the family rebels are pulling equally hard in the opposite direction.

Just as parents make mistakes, there is no denying that Lloyd's has made mistakes too — serious and costly ones at that. The question is whether the pain inflicted on names rules out the chances of a happy reconciliation.

A major problem that Lloyd's faces is the breakdown of trust. Constantly telling your children that you will bring them home a big present, only to disappoint them again and again, can only lead to tears before bedtime. Past experience has wiped out much of the goodwill that existed, leaving many names sceptical.

Yesterday's letter from Lloyd's ruling council concluded, with the help of its lawyers Freshfields, that allowing Lloyd's to fail and putting it into run-off would not ease the names' pain. Instead, the market's death throes would inflict even more agony on them, and there would be little chance of their escaping from the burden of meeting their losses. Lloyd's argues that the probable result would be that names' debts would increase and the demands for payment of these increased debts would be speeded up.

All this may be true, but Lloyd's has little chance of swaying the minds of those family members who believe its management will say anything to dig itself out of a hole. Much rests on Slaughter & May, the lawyers hired to check independently the council's findings. If they agree with the council's conclusions, the rebels may opt to back Lloyd's plans. Even if they disagree, it is unlikely that those conclusions will ever be put to the test — unless the number of rebels swells sufficiently to outweigh those family members who support the actions of their parents.

Victorian values

☐ AS VICTORIAN mill-owners or the cotton plantation managers of the Deep South knew, people work for two reasons, the carrot or the stick, but the stick is cheaper. It has one advantage over the carrot, in that it can be used again and again rather than consumed at once by an ungrateful recipient.

The stick in those days, in the form of starvation or physical chastisement, was also rather stouter than would be allowed today, so the carrot was never much needed.

But as an instrument of government employment policy, the stick has a mixed record in this country at least. In the 1930s, the means test, of bitter memory, required thousands who would today have qualified for benefit to live on the charity of sometimes distant relatives.

The carrot has never been much use either in moving the long-term unemployed, accustomed to life on the dole, back into the workforce. So the new Workfare, sorry, Project Work programme to be tested from next year represents the most widespread use for decades of the stick. The Government proposes to bar anyone unemployed for two years and not prepared to present themselves physically for work from claiming benefit.

It might have worked at the mill or on the plantation. But those long-term unemployed who genuinely want to work again do not need the encouragement of the stick. By contrast, those who would prefer to stay idle can no longer be physically coerced back into a real job.

Joint account

☐ ONE person in ten in the City takes recreational drugs — about normal, one would suppose, for any workforce with a higher than average share of the young and affluent. It seems a little low, to judge from anecdotal evidence. The good news is that the coke-sniffing yuppie dealing in millions while totally wired is a myth. As in other walks of life, most City druggies prefer cannabis, taken out of hours, in private, and therefore cause little harm to their employers.

Argyll keeps Safeway ahead in price wars

By Sarah Bagnall

ARGYLL, the supermarket group, yesterday revealed that a costly price war has flared up between the big four food retailers over the lucrative run-up to Christmas.

Colin Smith, chief executive, said: "Recently, key products, such as fruit and vegetables and petrol, have been experiencing intense pricing pressure and we have taken firm action to ensure Safeway remains fully competitive."

Prices of seven key products — bananas, loose carrots and onions, iceberg lettuce, cauliflowers, loose tomatoes and new potatoes — have fallen significantly in the past six weeks. In the case of bananas prices have tumbled from about 40p to 19p a pound as Tesco cut prices to match those charged by Asda. This prompted Sainsbury and Safeway to follow suit, which in turn caused Asda to cut its prices further. Mr Smith said he did not expect any more movement between now and Christmas.

Mr Smith made his remarks as he unveiled a 5 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £215 million in the 28 weeks to October 14. The result was towards the top end of analysts' forecasts and the shares rose 7p to 312p. The advance was achieved on the back of a 1 per cent rise in sales to £3.4 billion but excluding businesses sold during the past year. Sales rose 11 per cent. Safeway sales rose 13 per cent to £3.1 billion, while Presto sales fell 11 per cent.

The City was pleased with the healthy advance in Safeway's like-for-like sales of 7.8 per cent, which helped Argyll to lift its market share by 0.2 per cent to 7.5 per cent. Continuing the trend of improving underlying sales, Mr Smith revealed that in the first six weeks of the second half, like-for-like sales at Safeway were 9.6 per cent higher.

Mr Smith warned that the unexpected pricing pressure on the key product areas meant that gross margins in the second half would be a little below those of last year. In the first half the gross margin slipped by 0.5 per cent.

The group said about three million customers had signed up for its ABC loyalty card, which was launched nationally last month.

The dividend, due February 19, was lifted from 3.9p to 4.05p, in line with the rise in earnings per share from 12.8p to 13.3p.

Tempus, page 28

CHRIS HARRIS



Colin Smith, left, and Sir Alistair Grant, chairman

Littlewoods partial float recommended

THE debate over the future ownership of Littlewoods took a further step towards resolution yesterday when shareholders of the privately owned company were advised of their options (Sarah Bagnall writes).

After a review of the options over the last five months, Michael Gatenby, a former director of Charterhouse bank, recommended that in a few years time the family should consider a partial flotation.

Most of the 32 members of the Moores family that owns the retailing and football pools company gathered at a two-day meeting at a London hotel.

The review was commissioned in May, before the emergence of a "possible" £1.2 billion offer by Barry Dale, who was ousted as chief executive last year.

Welsh Water to resume bid talks with Swalec

By Christine Buckley

WELSH WATER returns to bid talks today with South Wales Electricity (Swalec) after being pressed yesterday to raise its offer when negotiations broke down after only half an hour.

The meeting, which has been stalled on several occasions by the water company, was abandoned after a bid of between 825p and 840p was tabled.

Andrew Walker, chief executive of Swalec, said: "We are looking for a price well north of £9 and we will talk further once they are prepared to come up with that."

The talks at the offices of NM Rothschild, one of the banks that is advising Swalec, hit the price obstacle when the Welsh Water representatives switched to a another room for talks among themselves. After three hours, they asked for a further meeting with Swalec, but the company declined ahead of preparation for publication of its interim results. It has brought the figures forward to this morning, just under a week ahead of schedule.

The companies are scheduled to resume talks this afternoon after interim presentations. Welsh Water, which was forced to show its hand over Swalec by the Stock Exchange after a leap in the electricity company's share price, has delayed talks for a variety of reasons over the past few weeks.

First, it wanted more time to consider its offer. Then, it said that it needed to gauge the value of the National Grid shares that began trading in the grey market last week. Then it stalled again, arguing that it wanted to see if the Chancellor of the Exchequer was going to impose any restrictions on the utilities in the Budget.

All regional electricity companies own a proportion of the National Grid, which is to be floated on December 11.

Yesterday, Welsh Water would not comment further on the talks. Swalec said that its interim figures would help to demonstrate that greater value was held in the electricity company than the prices so far offered by Welsh would indicate.

At the outset of negotiations between the two companies, it was thought that a rival bidder, such as an American utility, might enter the contest, but that is not now believed to be the case.

Committee to consider future of the Savoy

By Eric Reguly

SAVOY HOTEL yesterday appointed a directors' committee to consider the group's future now that Forte, its biggest shareholder, is under takeover threat from Granada.

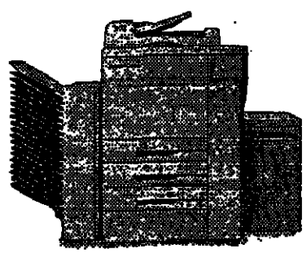
Granada last week offered £3.4 billion in shares and cash for Forte, Britain's largest hotels and restaurants operator, and said it would sell Forte's 68 per cent equity interest in the Savoy if the bid succeeds. Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, called the Savoy a "trophy" asset that produces more glamour than earnings.

The market values Savoy at about £300 million but the true worth of the Forte stake is questionable because it comes with only 42 per cent voting interest. The Wontner family and its charitable trusts control the rest of the voting shares and have been able to prevent an outright takeover by Forte.

The six-person committee, led by Sir Ewen Fergusson, the Savoy chairman, is being advised by Barings. Sir Rocco Forte and Sir Anthony Tennant, who are Forte's representatives on the Savoy board, are not on the committee.

Separately, Mr Robinson and other Granada executives today begin visiting institutional investors to try to convince them to back the bid.

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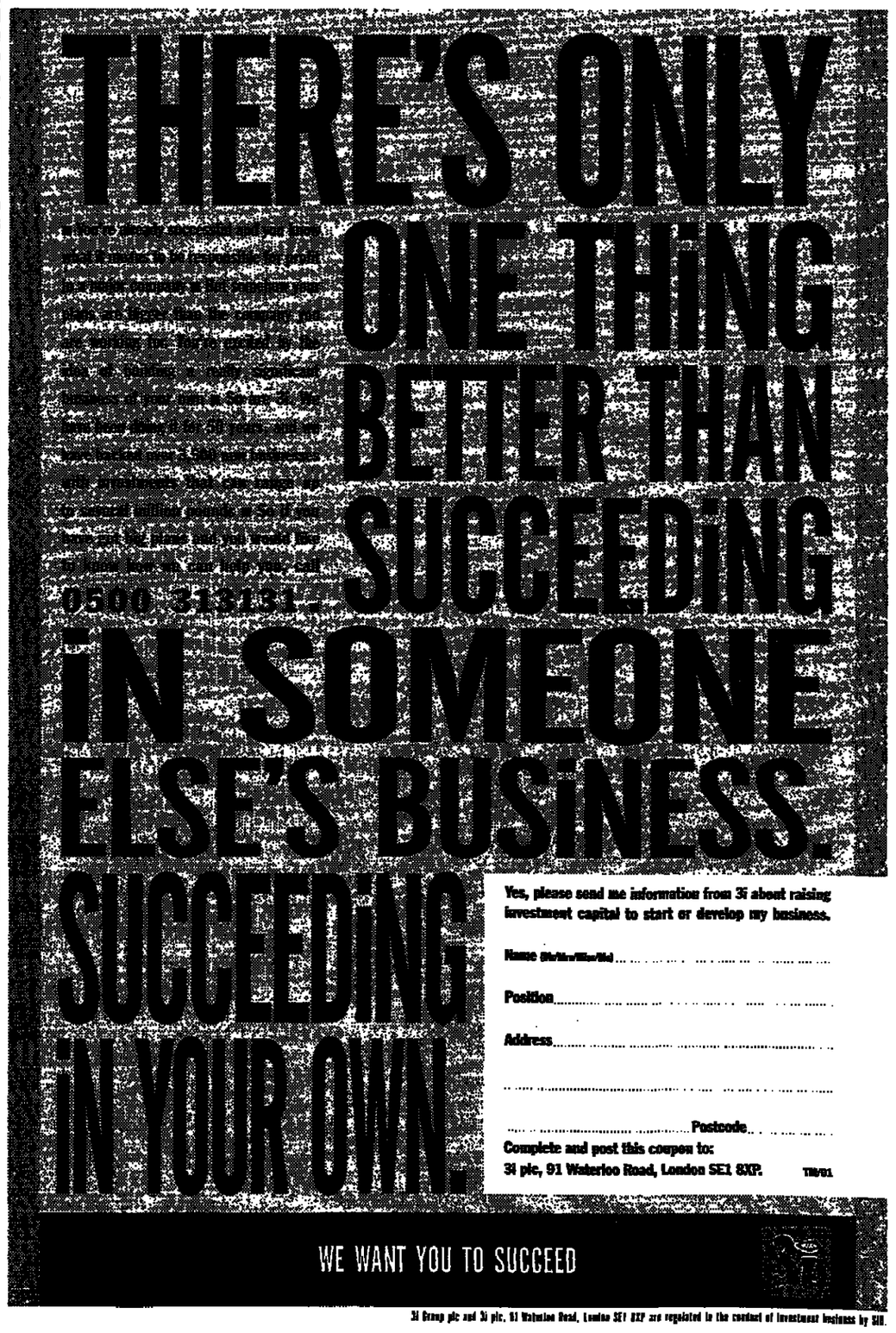
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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Shares confound sceptics with another new high

THE equity market extended its record-breaking run, confounding many experts who had given the Chancellor's Budget package a cool reception.

But it was a strong overnight rally on Wall Street which signalled the early mark-up. The FT-SE 100 index hit a new all-time trading peak of 3,671.0, but saw its earlier lead whittled away, despite news of a cut in the Halifax Building Society's mortgage rate and talk of an early cut in bank base rates. However the index still ended 6.7 points up at a new closing high of 3,655.5. A total of 782 million shares were traded.

Dealers said there was little Budget follow-through. Drinks companies which should have benefited from the duty freeze on beer and wine and the cut in spirits duty, failed to respond. **Allied Domecq** finished 6p down at 504p, **Grand Metropolitan** 5p cheaper at 434p and **Guinness** 10p down at 459p.

Some of the best gains relating to the Budget were recorded among banks, with brokers anticipating a series of interest rate cuts to revive the economy and, in particular, kick-start the depressed housing market. **Abbey National** led the way higher with a rise of 17p to 635p as news of the Halifax cut filtered through.

There was heavy turnover in shares of **Standard Chartered**, with the price climbing back above £6 at one stage before settling 16p higher at 596p amid talk of buying from the Far East. City whispers suggest a bid from Credit Suisse, the Swiss banking giant. By the close yesterday, more than 5 million shares had changed hands. Other banks to go better included, **HSBC**, 18p to 968p, **Lloyds**, 7p to 877p, and **National Westminster**, 3p to 675p. **Royal Bank of Scotland** rose 11½p to 547p before figures later today.

Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, is believed to be behind a 10p rise to 416p in **Rank Organisation**. The bingo-to-holiday camps group is due to issue a trading update on December 6 which should make positive reading. Business at Rank Xerox, where it continues to have a holding, is said to be "booming".

Vodafone, the cellular network operator, rose 5p to 223½p as the company and a party of brokers arrived in Greece on a tour of the group's overseas operations. Other venues are said to include South Africa and Australia.



Bingo! Rank Organisation was a good line yesterday

British Aerospace continue to be chased higher, reflecting its investment in Orange, the cellular network operator, which it owns with Hutchison Whampoa. Brokers calculate Orange could be worth 100p a share to BAe whose shares finished 19p better at 820p and have risen more than 100p since November 9.

Capital Radio, the independent radio broadcaster, leapt 29p to 504p after a buy recommendation from Merrill Lynch. A line of 900,000 shares were crossed at 505p, reminding brokers that news should be due soon on proposals for cross-media ownership.

The battle lines continue to be drawn between **South Wales Electricity**, up 2lp at £10.98, and **Welsh Water** after the latter signalled its intention to make a full bid. Welsh Water says it is prepared to offer terms valuing Swalec at 825p-840p a share, with a full cash alternative. The news emerged after a meeting between the two companies at which the terms, which exclude the National Grid and Swalec's interim dividend, were tabled. They were immediately rejected by Swalec as inadequate. Welsh Water finished 2p easier at 696p.

Drought-stricken **Yorkshire Water** came in for some adverse comment after reporting interim figures near the top end of expectations, with pre-tax profits 10 per cent ahead at £101.5 million. This had been achieved despite the drought adding an extra £20 million to operating costs, while the exceptional burden of maintaining water supplies cost £4.6 million. The payout was lifted almost 10 per cent to 9.1p.

Full-year figures from **Tate and Lyle** received a warm welcome, with the shares adding 10p to 454p. Pre-tax profits jumped from £274 million to £311 million with Sir Neil Shaw, chairman, telling brokers that T&L's core businesses were in better shape than they had ever been. He picked out the North American sugar operations and emerging markets as areas offering particularly strong growth.

There was also a positive response to half-year figures from **Argyll**, the Safeway supermarket group, which were at the top end of expectations. Pre-tax profits were £10 million higher at £215 million after raising like-for-like sales at Safeway by almost 8 per cent despite a major restructuring. Argyll is Britain's third biggest supermarket chain behind **Tesco**, 1p easier at 286p, and **J Sainsbury**, 2p better at 382p. Argyll responded with a rise of 7p to 312p.

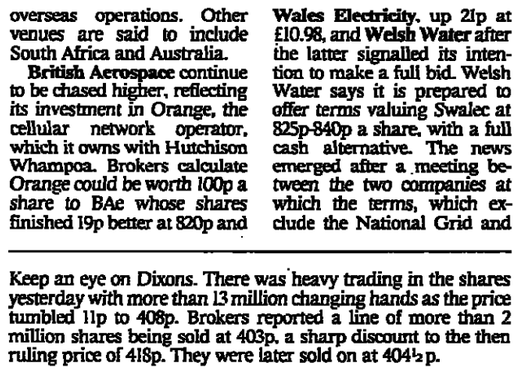
Queensborough Holdings, the leisure company, began trading on the big board yesterday after moving up from the USM following a reorganisation. The shares started life at 29p and briefly touched 30p before settling at 29p. It was also the first day of dealings for **L. Gardner Group**, the engineer. Placed at 125p, the shares started life at 125½p before closing at their best of the day at 146p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** There was a steepening of the yield curve with shorts underpinned by the prospect of an early cut in interest rates, while longer dated issues were worried by the upward revision of the PSBR forecast. Prices opened firmer but closed below their best. The December long gilt rose £¼ to finish at £109$^{23}/_{32}$ as a total of 75,000 contracts were completed.

Index-linked issues rose by £⅛ on average, while among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2013 hardened £$^{1}/_{16}$ to £101$^{23}/_{32}$. In shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose £¼ to £104⅜.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares opened higher on Wall Street, extending Tuesday's late rally. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 1.81 points higher at 5,079.91.

Keep an eye on Dixons. There was heavy trading in the shares yesterday with more than 13 million changing hands as the price tumbled 11p to 408p. Brokers reported a line of more than 2 million shares being sold at 403p, a sharp discount to the then ruling price of 418p. They were later sold on at 404½p.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5079.91 (+1.81)
S&P Composite 605.77 (-0.68)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18533.98 (-154.44)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 9617.32 (-6.47)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 477.22 (+3.37)

Sydney:
AO 2160.0 (+5.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2245.62 (+4.11)

Singapore:
Straits 2110.17 (-3.26)

Brussels:
General 7983.68 (+6.54)

Paris:
CAC-40 1857.33 (-13.01)

Zurich:
SKA Gen 701.40 (+2.80)

London:

FT 30	2675.3 (-0.8)
FT 100	3655.5 (+6.7)
FT-SE Mid 250	3951.0 (+9.3)
FT-SE-A 350	1810.6 (+3.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1461.76 (+0.51)
FT A All-Share	1784.61 (+3.2)
FT Non Financials	1881.49 (+1.49)
FT Fixed Interest	113.92 (+0.10)
FT Govt Secs	95.34 (+0.25)
Bargains	30823
SEAQ Volume	823.7m
USM (Datastrm)	188.27 (-0.45)
US$	1.5340 (-0.0128)
German Mark	2.3044 (-0.0134)
Exchange Index	82.4 (-0.5)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

£:ECU	1.1702
£:SDR	1.0389
RPI	149.8 Oct (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	148.7 Oct (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust HJ Inc C (100)	98	...
Arlon Props	9	...
BZW Eqts Tesco Elt	293	- 1
Benfield & Rea	103	...
David Glass (60)	66	...
East Surrey NV	448	...
Gardner (L)	146	...
Guinness Flight	93	+ 1
Guinness Flight U	193	...
Guinness Flight W	10	...
Heritage Baths (125)	163	+ 3
Hoare Govett Sml C	96½	...
London Town	80	...
Martin Currie Japan	94	...
Martin Currie Jp Wt	30	...
Premium Undrtg C	125	...
Revelation Plcc	105	...
Schroder Asia Pc	98	...
Tom Cobleigh	199	+ 10
Trocadero	41	+ 2
Vero Group	275	+ 1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Leisure n/p (34)	7	+ 1
Cordiant n/p (60)	31	+ 1
Frport Lels n/p (100)	15	...
Mayborn n/p (210)	38	...
Pilkington n/p (155)	36	- 3
Snst & Vine n/p (97)	12	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Capital Radio	504p (+27p)
Tottenham Hots	215p (+10p)
Matthew Clark	665p (+29p)
Lloyds Chem	268p (+11p)
Unipalm	750p (+30p)
Bellway	254p (+10p)
Enterprise	356p (+13p)
Stand Chart	596p (+18p)

FALLS:

Northamber	250p (-16p)
Scotia	595p (-30p)
Dixons Gp	408p (-11p)
Guinness	459p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

Our value for your money

CRUNCHING numbers is a job normally done by accountants, but when numbers get very big — and very unreliable — accountants are replaced by economists. It is that process that is now allowing the Government to forge ahead with the Private Finance Initiative: a cute scheme to shift the burden of government capital spending from present to future generations by transferring risk to the private sector in exchange for paying rent.

Key to the success of a PFI project is its value for money (VFM) but so far contractors have complained bitterly that the bidding process is too expensive, too bureaucratic and the returns too meagre to justify taking part. Undeterred, the Chancellor predicts some £14 billion of contracts will be agreed by 1998/9 and, acknowledging government shortcomings, Price Waterhouse has been hired to train some 10,000 civil servants in the black art of design, build and operate contracts.

In large part, the problem has been one of pricing risk. According to the Treasury, VFM is determined by measuring the net present value of future payments to the private sector against the equivalent cost of government DIY. However, a government department's cost of capital is 6 per cent compared with double digits for the private sector. If PFI can save the taxpayer money, either the private sector is very efficient or the Civil Service hopelessly incompetent at managing projects.

The retraining programme suggests the latter, but the suspicion lingers that VFM is not just about counting beans. PFI contracts are bespoke and with a determined Chancellor backing PFI, value for money could mean something very different indeed.

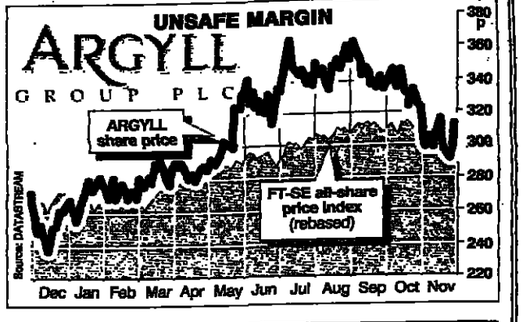
Argyll

ARGYLL'S strategy of chasing sales and cutting costs is delivering short-term results, but the gain in market share may not compensate for the erosion of margin. The like-for-like sales advance of 7.8 per cent in the first half is a marked improvement to the 1 per cent decline in the first quarter of the last financial year. In each of the last six quarters, underlying sales growth has been ahead of the improvement in the previous period, and the trend is continuing. Like-for-like sales rose 9.6 per cent in the first six weeks of the second half, a stark contrast to Sainsbury's lacklustre performance.

Food retailing remains fiercely competitive, and while Argyll is notching up pleasing revenue gains, investors may find better bargains elsewhere. Argyll's sales per square foot are up £1 to £14 — matching those of Asda, but still falling short of both Tesco and Sainsbury.

Having lowered prices in the pursuit of volume, Argyll might have hoped to begin to consolidate its gains in the second half, but food retail margins are again under pressure, and the company's warning about gross margin slippage is no surprise.

Argyll enjoys better margins than Asda, but this only enhances the attractions of the latter which has room for improvement, an opportunity reflected in Asda's shares which trade on a prospective multiple of 15 times compared with Argyll's 12.5 times.



Tate & Lyle

THERE was a time, not very long ago, when the world's largest sugar company looked fat from over indulgence. A worldwide sugar surplus, overweening global ambitions and an American business beset by labour and pricing problems, led some to the conclusion that Tate & Lyle needed a crash diet and a spell in a health farm.

Times have changed and Tate & Lyle is now proving to be a leaner and trimmer beast than expected. Yesterday's figures were ahead of forecasts and improvements in Staley, the US operation, look convincing.

Tate has committed itself to a high level of investment.

In the past year it has spent £211 million on new plant and machinery and has allocated a further £116 million for developing overseas operations. Growth there is expected to flourish as the citizens of emerging markets acquire a taste for fast food and sweeteners to match their new, frenetic Western lifestyles.

Tate is hoping that margin improvement in the developing regions will compensate for flatter returns in Europe and is anticipating that about a quarter of its operating profit will come from new markets in the short term. Unless commodity prices upset its plans, Tate is capable of turning in good profits.

Yorkshire Water

THE directors of Yorkshire Water might consider a rain dance. The bill for maintaining supplies through the drought is now running at £3 million a week and although the company has weathered this to date, it must soon begin to affect profits. The £75 million of precautionary measures announced yesterday has come too late to solve the short term supply problems.

But the cost of the drought is only part of Yorkshire's current predicament. Hosepipe bans have focused attention on the conflicting demands of water customers and shareholders. Long term problems such as Yorkshire's poor leakage record, a legacy of the appalling infrastructure the company inherited at privatisation, are now on the agenda. Remedying the situation is highly expensive, but public opinion is forcing Yorkshire to put the customer first.

Sir Gordon Jones, the chairman, came close to admitting yesterday that the interim dividend increase was only possible because of the sale of the company's Yorkshire Cable investment. Yorkshire wants to maintain a dividend growth rate of just under 10 per cent for the next five years, but unless rain dowses the fire of public opinion it may find its priorities lie elsewhere.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	907-906	Mar	1023-1021
Mar	945-944	May	1035-1033
May	962-961	Jul	unq
Jul	982-981	Sep	...
Sep	1001-999		
Dec	1014-1011	Volume: 8215	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2829-2650	Jul	1928-1925
Jan	2235-2234	Sep	1890-1885
Mar	2065-2064	Nov	1865-1860
May	1983-1980	Volume: 4941	

WHITE SUGAR (POB)

Reuters		Oct	304.3-02.0
Spot: 388.8		Dec	297.2-95.0
Mar	349.0-46.5	Mar	297.3-94.1
May	341.3-38.6	May	299.7-96.6
Aug	333.3-31.0	Volume: 2385	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 28

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	102.28	115.10	121.93
(+/-)	-0.22	+6.96	-1.97
Eng/Wales:	102.58	115.10	119.91
(+/-)	-0.07	+6.15	-2.55
(%)	+12.0	-1.0	+33.0
Scotland:	98.56	115.12	130.03
(+/-)	-1.93	+10.14	-1.21
(%)	+21.0	+5.0	+70.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.30	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Jan)	17.15	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Feb)	16.85	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	18.35	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	18.05	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B: 186 (n/c)	O: 188 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	160 (+1)	162 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Dec	161 (-1)	163 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Jan	159 (-3)	161 (-2)
3.5 Fuel Oil	91 (+1)	93 (+2)
Naphtha	150 (n/c)	153 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Dec	n/a	Mar	154.50-55.00
Jan	157.50-57.75	Apr	153.00-53.25
Feb	156.50-56.75	Vol: 13395	

BRENT (6.00pm)

Jan	17.14-17.15	Apr	16.45-16.47
Feb	16.85-16.86	May	16.31-16.35
Mar	16.62-16.64	Vol: 34316	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	136.30	Jan	116.45
Mar	128.35	Mar	118.50
May	130.15	May	120.50
Jul	122.25	Sep	110.25
Sep	114.25	Nov	111.90
Volume: 349		Volume: 237	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	220.0
Apr	265.0	299.6
May	unq	295.0
	Volume: 70	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Jan 114.50-115.00

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 95	1680	1680	1679
Dec 95	1560	1533	1557
Jan 96	1515	1495	1500
Apr 96	1485	1475	1486
Vol: 427 lots		Open Interest: 4306	
	Index 1666 -19		

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE — Rudolf Wolff

(Official) (Volume prev day)

	Cash:	3mth:	Vol:
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2984.0-2985.0	2735.0-2737.0	1416575
Lead ($/tonne)	746.00-747.00	725.00-726.00	167875
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1028.0-1028.5	1053.0-1053.5	624075
Tin ($/tonne)	6330.0-6335.0	6380.0-6382.0	37225
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1644.0-1645.0	1683.0-1684.0	1205100
Nickel ($/tonne)	8175.0-8180.0	8305.0-8310.0	96408

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Allid Dom.	500	11½	24½	31	18	24½	32
(*503½)	550	1½	8	13½	60½	61½	66
Argyll	300	15½	26	30	7	11½	17½
(*312)	330	3	12	15½	25	28	34
ASDA	100	9	13	15	4½	7	7
(*109½)	110	4½	9	10½	10	12½	13
Boots	550	28½	45	52½	7	12	20
(*569½)	600	6½	19	26½	33½	38	45
Br Airways	460	19½	33	40	10	16	22½
(*466)	500	4	15	21	35½	39	44½
BP	500	18½	29½	37	7½	16	20½
(*507½)	550	1½	9	16	43	46½	50
Br Steel	160	13½	19	22	2	4½	8
(*170½)	180	3	8½	11	11½	14	18½
C & W	420	36	50	56½	5½	12	17½
(*451)	460	14	27½	35½	22	28½	35
CU	600	55	66½	72½	4½	16½	20½
(*647½)	650	21	34½	44	25½	39	43
ICI	750	33	47½	59	12½	29	34½
(*766½)	800	10½	22½	35½	39½	57½	62½
Kingfishr	500	30½	44	49½	7½	19	26½
(*518½)	550	7½	19½	25	35	46	53½
Land Sec	550	49	59	65	2	5	12
(*594)	600	12	25	32	17	22	33½
M & S	420	33	43	48½	2½	6	11
(*447½)	460	7½	19	25	17½	22½	28½
Nat Wes	650	39½	50½	63½	9	25½	33½
(*674½)	700	12½	25½	39	33½	52½	60½
Sainsbury	360	28½	38	42	2½	5½	11
(*381½)	390	9½	19½	24½	13½	16½	24
Shell	800	21½	35½	43	11	25	29½
(*805½)	850	3½	13½	21½	44½	56½	60
Smkl Bch.	650	55	68½	81	4½	12	16½
(*698)	700	21	37½	51½	20½	31½	36
Storehse	330	13½	21½	29	10½	15	19
(*333½)	360	4½	9½	16	31	33½	36½
Trafalgar	20	6	7	8½	1	2	3
(*24½)	25	3½	5	6½	3½	4½	6
Unilever	1200	57	77	88	6½	21	27
(*1239½)	1250	24	45	58½	24½	43½	49
Zeneca	1300	46	81	106	35	68½	80
(*1302½)	1350	24½	58	82½	64	97	108

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	34	45	52½	3	7½	12½
(*487)	500	9½	20½	29	19	23½	29
Thames W	550	25	42	49½	12	19	32½
(*557½)	600	7	21	28½	44	47½	62
BAT Ind	550	28	36½	44½	17	29½	37½
(*554½)	600	9½	17	25	49½	61½	66
BTR	330	18	21½	27	7	12½	15
(*337½)	360	5	9½	13	26½	31	32½
Br Aero	800	52½	69	89	23½	37	45
(*817½)	850	28½	45½	63½	50	62½	70
Br Telcm	360	19	26	32½	9	11½	16½
(*372)	390	6	12	18	28	28	33½
Cadbury	550	32½	40½	51	20	32	37
(*554½)	600	12	20	30	49½	62½	66½
Guinness	430	47½	51½	56½	4	9	12
(*457½)	460	19½	25	32½	15½	25	28
GEC	300	25½	32½	37	3½	6	10
(*321)	330	8	15½	20	17	19	24
Hanson	191	8	—	—	9½	—	—
(*192½)	211	2½	—	—	24½	—	—
LASMO	160	11½	15	19½	6½	9½	11½
(*162½)	180	3½	7	11	19	20½	23
Lucas	180	17	20½	24½	4	7	9
(*189½)	200	7	10½	14½	14	17	19
Pilkington	191	12	16½	20	9	9½	13½
(*191½)	210	5	9½	12	21	21	25
Prudential	420	32½	38	44½	12	20	24
(*433)	460	13½	19	26	32½	42	46
Redland	360	37	45	48	5	12	14½
(*386½)	390	19	27	30½	17	26	28½
R-Royce	160	22½	24½	28	2	4½	6½
(*178)	180	9½	12½	17	9	13	15
Tesco	280	17½	23½	26	8	12½	15
(*286)	300	8½	13½	16½	18½	23½	26
Vodafone	220	17	23	28	8½	11½	14
(*225)	240	8	14	19	19½	22½	24½
Williams	330	14½	19½	22½	9	17	18
(*330½)	360	3½	7	10½	30	36½	37½

FT-SE INDEX (*3654)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Dec	114½	72	38½	17½	6	1½
Jan	141½	106	74½	51	31½	18
Feb	166	131	101	76½	54	39
Mar	180½	148	116½	93	69½	52
Jun	—	191	—	137½	—	93
Puts						
Dec	9½	17½	35	66	110	160
Jan	30	45½	65	91½	125	165½
Feb	43	59	79½	106	137	175
Mar	56½	75	93½	120½	148½	183½
Jun	—	117	—	163	—	219

	Calls Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat.	600	39	55	60½	3	19½	28
(*633½)	650	9	27½	35	24	45½	53½
Amstrad	260	10½	21½	29½	4	11	14½
(*264½)	280	3	12½	20	15½	21½	24½
Barclays	750	39	60	69	4½	21½	29½
(*785)	800	9½	32	43½	34½	46	54½
Blue Circ	300	30½	39½	43½	0½	5½	11
(*328½)	330	8	20½	25	8	16½	24
Br Gas	240	13½	22½	25½	2	7½	11½
(*249½)	260	3½	12	15	12	17	22½
Dixons	390	21	36	44	3	13½	17½
(*406½)	420	6	21½	28	17	27½	32
Forte	330	17½	28	30½	3	9	14
(*343½)	360	2½	12½	16	18½	22½	28½
Tarmac	90	7	12	13½	1	4	6½
(*95½)	100	2	6½	8½	6	9	11½
Hillsdwn	140	15½	19	19½	0½	2½	6
(*153)	160	2	6½	8½	7	10½	16½
Londno	160	8½	13½	17½	1½	7	8
(*166)	180	1	5½	9	14	19	19½
Sears	100	4½	8	10	1½	3½	5½
(*102½)	110	0½	3½	5½	8	9	11
Thrn Emi	1500	61	98	135½	9	37	45½
(*1545)	1600	11½	50½	85½	60	89½	95
Tomkins	360	9½	17	24	3½	10	12½
(*269½)	280	1½	8	14½	15½	21½	22½
TSB	390	21	26½	30½	3½	10½	21½
(*407)	420	6	9½	14½	18	26½	39½

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo Well	850	43	62½	75½	14	31½	40
(*873)	900	18	39½	50½	37½	57	65½
HSBC	950	44½	71	88	20½	48	60
(*968)	1000	22	46	64	47½	76	87½
Reuter	600	35	50	64½	11	29½	29½
(*619½)	650	12	25½	40	37½	49	55

	Calls Series	Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Royal Ins	360	29	40	46	4½	16½	22½
(*381)	390	14	24	31½	17½	32½	37½

	Calls Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Puts Dec	Mar	Jun
Pisons	260	5	5½	9½	0½	0½	0½
(*264)	280	0	0	0	16	16	17½

	Series	Feb	May		Feb	May
Eastern Gp	950	77	26	—	0½	1	—
(*974)	1000	0½	0½	—	33½	34	—

	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr	460	14½	30½	42	5	14	24
(*467)	500	1	14½	22½	33	36	46
Scot Pwr	360	21	27	35	1½	9½	11½
(*377½)	390	4	12	19½	14	24	26½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Dec 95	3660.0	3678.0	3643.0	3655.0	13880
Previous open interest: 75408	Mar 96	3668.0	3700.0	3670.0	3679.0	4486
FT-SE 250	Dec 95				3950.0	0
Previous open interest: 3500	Mar 96				4005.0	0
Three Month Sterling	Dec 95	93.57	93.61	93.55	93.56	32746
Previous open interest: 374133	Mar 96	93.77	93.87	93.77	93.81	37485
	Jun 96	93.87	93.96	93.84	93.91	29911
Three Mth Eurodollar	Dec 95				94.26	0
Previous open interest: 110	Mar 96				94.64	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Dec 95	96 13	96.14	96.12	96.12	18112
Previous open interest: 914064	Mar 96	96.35	96.36	96.31	96.32	26533
Long Gilt	Dec 95	109-15	110-00	109-09	109-23	75538
Previous open interest: 126583	Mar 96	109-00	109-14	108-26	109-06	25254
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95	123.40	123.43	123.35	123.40	328
	Mar 96	122.05	122.08	121.96	122.06	2274
German Gov Bd Bund	Dec 95	98.35	98.45	98.24	98.39	123006
Previous open interest: 223026	Mar 96	97.77	97.85	97.66	97.70	22330
Three month ECU	Dec 95	94.73	94.75	94.62	94.68	2225
Previous open interest: 21095	Mar 96	94.89	94.91	94.80	94.84	1097
Euro Swiss Franc	Dec 95	98.00	98.01	97.97	97.98	3340
Previous open interest: 60119	Mar 96	98.27	98.28	98.22	98.23	3583
Italian Govmt Bond	Dec 95	104.84	104.92	104.35	104.44	38943
Previous open interest: 44787	Mar 96	104.42	104.54	104.00	104.08	4957

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6% Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7⅛ Low 6⅛ Week fixed: 6⅛
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛ : 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅛ : 3 mth: 6⅛ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Overnight: open 6⅛, close 6⅛ .					
Local Authority Depo:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.90	n/a	5.74	5.59	5.53
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅜-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅜-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-4⅞
Deutschemark:	4⅛-3⅛	4⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	4⅛-3⅛
French Franc:	5⅛-5	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-4⅞
Swiss Franc:	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Hotline on deadline

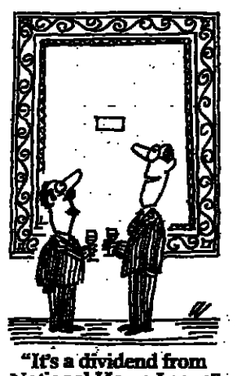
MY HEART goes out to PHH, the vehicle management services group, which set up a special Budget Hotline on 01793-885015 and then sat there waiting for the phone to ring. When I tried the number several times on Tuesday, I could not get through. On checking the number with BT, I was informed: "It's a spare line, but without a subscriber". Meanwhile, PHH's team of five experts sat in a room waiting for the phone to ring. They waited and waited and waited. "There was a technical fault at our end," a voice which sounded obviously relieved to talk to somebody echoed from an empty room yesterday, "it did ring once ... but it was a wrong number".

Switched off

A WONDERFULLY Irish tax avoidance scheme has been cruelly curtailed by the Budget. Drivers from Northern Ireland had been crossing the border into the Republic to fill up with cheap gas oil — intended for agricultural use — and driving back again to show a considerable saving on their motoring costs — as red diesel has 2.33p/litre duty against 34.3p/litre for ordinary diesel. HM Customs and Excise were powerless to stop them because of an EU agreement under which diesel imported in fuel tanks was exempt from duty. This loophole has now been closed, much to the disappointment of a band of entrepreneurs who had set up filling stations the length of the border.

Tasty spread

IT WAS NOT only whisky drinkers who benefited from the Budget. The Chancellor took only 68 minutes to deliver his speech which means the hordes who placed spread bets with *City Index* and *Sporting Index* have been raking it in. The spread at *City Index* was 83-87 minutes, and at *Sporting Index* 82-86 minutes. *Sporting Index* admits "we were off-track", and



"It's a dividend from National Home Loans"

graciously sends congratulations to all the winners.

On the scent

A MOST appropriate suggestion to name a British Airways perfume comes from a very well qualified lady, who once worked as ground staff for Iceland Air. Hafdis Bennett of Wembley was given a one-hour free flying lesson by her family one Christmas, became hooked, took lessons — and qualified as a private plot to fly single engine aircraft at the tender age of 50! She says: "Take it from a lady passionate about flying. The name of the BA fragrance just has to be — Soaring".

Body politic

PADDY ASHDOWN, fielding questions at a German-British Chamber of Industry and Commerce lunch at the Dorchester, said he liked to think of Labour and the Conservatives as the Marks & Spencers of British politics, while his own Liberal Democrats were the Body Shop — the niche marketers.

COLIN CAMPBELL



How the Chancellor got lost on his way to the Budget

A shortfall in tax revenues and overshoot on public spending trapped Clarke

On Tuesday afternoon, just after Kenneth Clarke sat down in the Commons, I asked a senior Treasury official what had happened to all the money the Chancellor had been expected to use on tax cuts and reductions in the PSBR. The official, suddenly liberated from Budget purdah, replied with wonderful directness: "We lost it."

Those three words, as well as demonstrating that some Treasury officials may actually have human souls, said everything we need to know about the Budget. So let me devote the next 1400 words to explicating this Delphic trionym.

Let me begin with the £7 billion the Treasury has mislaid through tax shortfalls. The Budget has proved yet again what a disaster befell the Government and the country when Norman Lamont decided to give the Bank of England a dominant role in the setting of interest rates. Treasury officials say that a £7 billion revenue loss was far too big to be explained by the slowdown in economic growth after the Bank started raising interest rates at the end of last year.

"Changes in behaviour" appear to have dramatically reduced the yields from Corporation Tax and VAT (which rather begs the question of why nothing was done in the Budget to raise more revenues from the corporate sector, for example through a utility windfall tax). But while avoidance activity may have accounted for most of the revenue shortfall, economic weakness also played an important role.

So far in the 1995-96 financial year, the economy has grown by 2.5 per cent compared with a year earlier. This compares with the 1994 Budget forecast of 3.25 per cent growth. According to the Treasury's published estimates, this shortfall in growth should reduce government revenues by about £1.6 billion this financial year and by about £3 billion in 1996-97.

The mandarins see this as a tiny figure in the context of total government revenues estimated at £285 billion in 1996-97. But as Mr Clarke said on Tuesday, the PSBR is a small number figure which depends on the difference between two very big numbers. This is true *a fortiori* of the amount of money available to a Chancellor to give back in tax cuts.

It is worth reflecting on how the Budget judgment might have been altered if that £3 billion of revenues had not been squeezed out of existence by the over-restrictive monetary policy demanded by Eddie George. If Mr Clarke had wanted to reinforce his image as the Iron Chancellor, he could have delighted the financial markets by announcing a PSBR of below £20 billion for 1996-97. Alternatively, his scope to make tax cuts this week could have been *doubled*. With £6 billion to hand back instead of £3 billion, Mr Clarke could, for example, have answered his backbenchers' prayers (though not, I must admit, my own preferences) by cutting the standard rate of tax by 3p.

Is there any chance of the Treasury recovering some of the "lost" tax money? That depends entirely on what Mr Clarke does on interest rates.

Interest rates will obviously fall after this Budget. The certainty which the City now feels on this question is a measure not of the Chancellor's fiscal prudence but of the Government's desperation — for tax revenues as well as for votes. Indeed, the Halifax Building Society jumped the gun yesterday by announcing a cut in its mortgage rate. But how different would the message have been, both in political and economic terms, if the rate cut had been announced instead by the Chancellor in the Budget.

An immediate cut in interest rates — with another firmly promised for next year if the economy and the housing market remained weak — should have been presented as an integral part of the Budget package, indeed as its very core. An explicit promise to reduce interest rates in response to signs of economic weakness would have allowed the Chancellor to offer a credible guarantee against the recession dreaded by voters and the overshoot in public borrowing which worries investors. Such a guarantee could have gone a long way to restore confidence in the City and the business community, as well as boosting the housing market and reassuring insecure voters.

Yet, the Chancellor has stuck slavishly to the monetarist orthodoxy which says that monetary decisions must be kept completely separate from all other issues of economic policy. Since Mr Clarke is so timid, perhaps the chairman of the Halifax should be invited to deliver next year's Budget instead.

Now let us turn to the money dropped on the spending side of the ledger. Prior to the Budget, many commentators (myself included) believed that the Chancellor could easily cut £5 billion or £6 billion out of the £260 billion public expenditure "control total", even after allowing some extra spending on education and health. But, in the event, he saved only £3.2 billion. The difference between Mr Clarke's achievements and the expectations was equivalent to about 1.5p off the standard rate of tax.

A glance at the main spending table from the Budget "Red Book" shows how this money was "lost". The bottom line of the table shows that £3.2 billion has been cut from the contingency reserve. This was very much as expected. The surprise was that the Chancellor failed to find any savings on top of this sum. Specifically, there is no sign of the £1.5 billion that might have been saved in the *current* financial year because inflation, as measured by the GDP deflator, has turned out 0.5 percentage points lower than the Treasury had projected. There is also no trace of the £2 billion taken out of capital programmes via the private finance initiative or of the much discussed but as yet unquantified reduction in administrative running costs. Taken together, these savings should easily have added up to the missing £2-£3 billion. So where did this money go?

The answer can be seen more clearly by looking at the money that is being spent this year than at speculative projections about 1996-97. The bottom line of the table shows that spending this year will be £800 million lower than planned, even though inflation and administrative savings should have taken some £2 billion out of public spending. The reality is that most of the money that was saved through tighter administration, low inflation and now the private finace initiative is being spent on over-runs elsewhere.

Looking again at 1995-96, there have been huge overruns at the Foreign Office (£310m), Transport (£240m), the Home Office (£170m), Social Security (£1.1 billion), the Cabinet Office (£170m) and local authorities (£600m). Each of these has a respectable explanation. The main ones are as follows: Bosnia; Channel Tunnel rail link delays; police and prisons; rising take-up of disability benefits; civil service redundancy payments; and education spending.

All these may be perfectly good causes on which to spend public money and the same may be true of the new public expenditure programmes announced on Tuesday by Mr Clarke: the extra money for nursery vouchers and assisted places; the additional money allocated to health trusts; the 5,000 extra policemen and so on. But if the Government keeps inventing extra programmes, it can hardly expect the same money to be left for tax cuts at the end of the year. The same is true of all the managerial efficiencies and spending reductions that Tory ministers constantly boast of.

Under Britain's present system of running the public sector, the savings supposedly generated by slash-and-burn management consultants and right-wing ministers usually go straight back into extra public spending. Indeed, there is no disgrace for any department in overshooting its targets. The Treasury is satisfied as long as some money can be squeezed out of another department or the contingency reserve.

This self-perpetuating quality of public spending may or may not seem desirable, depending on your political point of view. But it is certainly far removed from Thatcherite ideology. It tells us not only why the Treasury has "lost" our money, but also why the Tories have lost their way.

£ million

	Outturn 1994-95	Estimated Outturn 1995-96	New Plans 1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	Changes from previous plans 1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Defence	22562	21210	21420	21910	22620	-500	-500	-400
Foreign Office	1264	1470	1090	1110	1110	310	-70	-70
Overseas Development	2369	2370	2290	2370	2420	10	-130	-110
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	2430	2930	3020	2960	2920	-100	10	0
Trade and Industry - Programmes	2806	3240	3200	3130	3120	30	50	-50
Trade and Industry - Nat Inds	579	430	-290	-190	-270	-60	-40	480
ECGD	-11	30	10	0	-10	40	0	0
Transport	5937	4820	4180	4690	4410	240	-190	-350
DOE - Housing	7173	6700	5840	5680	6050	-10	-880	-1100
DOE - Urban and Environment	2475	2370	2400	2270	2050	40	70	-40
DOE - Local government	29913	30320	31320	31380	31530	10	430	530
Home Office	8258	8600	8520	8640	8760	170	50	-10
Legal Departments	2596	2710	2720	2750	2890	-90	-170	-140
Education and Employment	13573	14190	14040	14510	14520	-10	-430	120
National Heritage	964	1020	960	940	940	20	0	10
Health	31582	32930	33750	34180	34970	0	520	120
of which NHS	30578	31980	33050	33910	34700	0	120	130
Long term care			60	60	60		60	60
Social Security	70405	73730	76810	79800	82250	1160	1040	550
Scotland	14078	14470	14550	14690	14800	30	-70	10
Wales	6557	6720	6800	6930	6860	-60	-70	-100
Northern Ireland	7408	7820	8010	8210	8270	110	130	190
Chancellor's departments	3351	3300	3200	3120	3100	30	-60	-100
Cabinet office	944	1120	980	970	930	170	100	80
European Communities	1235	2890	2300	2500	1500	70	-470	-140
Local authority self-financed expenditure	11761	12300	12500	13000	13300	800	600	700
Contingency Reserve			2500	5000	7500	-3000	-3200	-3700
Control Total	248229	255500	260200	268200	275800	-800	-3200	-3500

Source: H M Treasury

Lignite a cheaper power source for Northern Ireland

From Mr Charles T. Morley

Sir, Northern Ireland Electric (NIE) is reported to be "making too much profit ... electricity costs more in Northern Ireland than in the rest of the UK", according to the all-party Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee ("NIE too much profit", November 23). Why should this remain so in the future?

Northern Ireland has over one billion tonnes of good quality, low-sulphur lignite coal in three proven deposits. This energy fuel is close to the surface, is suitable for low-cost open-pit mining, and can supply several mine-mouth electricity generating stations.

Lignite would produce cheap power, something the coal and oil currently in use do not seem to be able to do.

And what is planned for the future? There are plans to import expensive power from mainland UK through two of our recently-privatised utilities. Scottish Electricity is to bring in electricity generated from Scottish coal by undersea cable to Larne. British Gas is to pipe in gas to Ballyhumford, an electricity generating station on the County Antrim coast.

In the Province, one lignite deposit at Crumlin, with a proven 200 million tonnes, has already been part-developed. Lignite from a trial pit has been shown to be ideal for burning in a power station.

Much of the land required has been purchased and some of the pre-feasibility work has been completed. The deposit could support a 600-megawatt station adjacent to the open pit.

Further north, reserves exceed 600 million tonnes at Ballymoney. One company is poised to complete land purchase and technical studies, confident it can supply up to 1,000 megawatts into the power grid. Both of these deposits could be brought into production at no capital cost to the public purse.

Environmentalists should note modern lignite mining will never again produce the despoilation seen in the old lignite mining areas of East Germany. Ample safeguards will be built in to planning permission.

Jobs will be created: for each power station, around 1,500 to 2,000 during construction and 300 permanent jobs thereafter. The "multiplier effect" will bring in another 200 to 300 jobs in support and services industries.

Northern Ireland could be an exporter of electricity, to mainland Britain and to the Irish Republic. We are never going to get cheap power from our own generators — listen to the squeals from our industry at the ever-increasing power costs, way above inflation. We could get cheap electricity from Northern Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES T. MORLEY,
Oak Lodge,
3 Station Road,
Budleigh Salterton,
Devon.

Real first duty of management

From W.J Morgan

Sir, I am most surprised to read that Mr N. F Durrant considers the first duty of the directors and management of any company is to the shareholders. How can he be so naive?

It is several years since Mr Jo Grimond (later to become Lord Grimond) wrote that public companies are run for the benefit of the directors, and this dictum is just as true today as it was then.

Yours faithfully,
W. J. MORGAN,
16 Beechcroft Court,
Four Oaks Road,
Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Amsa shows it means business in Latin America

Colin Campbell on Minorco's commitment to a continent

Minorco, the international natural resources group, is marching through the world with pick and cheque book.

This week, it was the purchase of Tilcon Holdings, the UK's seventh largest producer of aggregates, from BTR for £330 million in a further expansion of its aggregates interests.

Last week, in the third deal within four years in eastern Germany, Minorco acquired another sand and gravel operation, this time paying $44 million. In Ireland, Minorco, in partnership with Ivernia West, is spending $180 million on the Lisheen zinc/lead deposit.

Meanwhile, in South America between now and the year 2001, Amsa, its wholly owned subsidiary, together with strong financial partners, is committing itself to five mining projects in five countries.

The South American programme is billed at $4 billion, of which Minorco's share is $2 billion. The territory stretches from Argentina to Venezuela, from Brazil to Chile. The focus is on copper, nickel and gold in a continent which is a treasure trove of deposits waiting to be developed. Amsa first put a foot in Latin America in the 1970s. By the early 1990s, it had become the largest and most diversified private mining group on the continent. Today, on the threshold of a new century, it has never been so positive.

> Partnerships are a basic fundamental of Minorco's philosophy

A $4 billion programme brings management full circle. Guy Young, the charismatic chief executive, said that five years ago Amsa was "gloomy about political and economic prospects, and uncertain where it was going in South America".

The new air of confidence partly stems from the 1993 change in "management control" when ownership of Amsa passed from South Africa's Anglo American Corporation to Minorco.

At just this time, governments across Latin America were opening up to international investment and encouraging mining exploration. For mining groups held in check by environmental pressures in North America and Australia, South America is the new frontier.

The $4 billion programme will include $1.3 billion for Collahuasi, a huge copper project in northern Chile jointly owned with Canada's Falconbridge. Collahuasi will be one of the largest copper mines in the world with a life of at least 45 years.

In northern Brazil, in partnership with state-controlled CVRD, $1.5 billion will be spent developing the Salobo copper/gold deposit, and will include a dedicated smelter and refinery. In Peru, at a height of 3,800 metres, Amsa is interested, with the International Finance Corporation, an affiliate of the World Bank, which has a 20 per cent stake, in the Quellaveco copper deposit. This venture will absorb $500 million. In time, more ventures in Peru are likely.

In Venezuela, 80 kilometres from Caracas, Amsa has a 10 per cent interest — with the right to increase to 85 per cent — in the Loma de Hierro nickel deposit. About $325 million would be needed to develop it.

But it is for the Patagonia region of Argentina for which Amsa reserves the phrase "most exciting". There, in 50:50 partnership with the Perez Companc group, a leading Argentine conglomerate, geologists have identified what in mining circles is already being talked of as "fabulous" — Cerro Vanguardia, a gold deposit with extensive silver as a by-product. Amsa is expected to announce results of its extensive feasibility study of Cerro Vanguardia before the year end.

Minorco has long been a cash-rich group which, when it invests, invests in millions. Indeed, Minorco is out to ensure that each of its five divisions — gold, base metals, paper and packaging, agribusinesses and industrial minerals — is expanded in its own right, and strong operating income flow is balanced soundly enough to offset the volatility of metals cycles.

Minorco has long been inbued with the philosophy that it cannot hope to do things on its own. Strategic partnerships are a fundamental principle of its philosophy. As a consequence, Amsa has long been friends with Brazil's Bozano Simonsen group and Argentina's Perez Companc group.

But while acquisitions in Europe have been catching this month's headlines, it is Amsa that most intrigues analysts. South American operations contributed $77 million to Minorco's operating earnings of $291 million in the 12 months ended December 1994, and 16 per cent, or $554 million, of Minorco's 1994 total sales. However, as a 100 per cent owned subsidiary, Amsa's true light is hidden under Minorco's umbrella.

A case can be made for listing Amsa in its own right on an international stock exchange to demonstrate its true value. If not an Amsa listing, then Minorco itself might consider raising its own flag on a South American stock exchange to demonstrate to Latin American investors, in whose province it operates, that Minorco has arrived and plans to stay.

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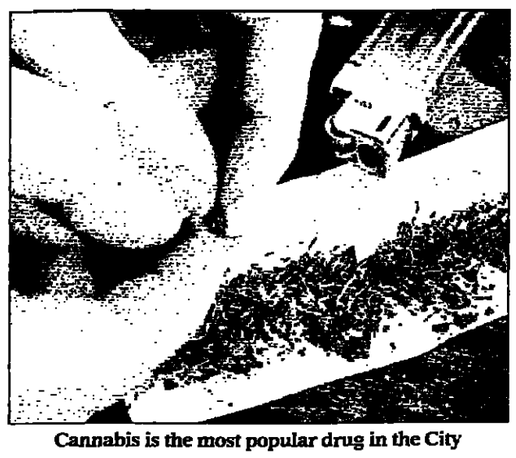
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TMB1

At least one in ten City employees takes drugs, says report


Cannabis is the most popular drug in the City

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TEN per cent or more of City employees take drugs. And many of those drug users are in responsible jobs, handling large amounts of money, a leading City medical expert reports today.

But cannabis, rather than the cocaine seen as the favourite of high-flying City yuppies, is the City's drug of choice.

Between 10 and 15 per cent of job applicants in the City currently test positive for drugs, according to new evidence presented today by the Institute of Personnel and Development — although some City insiders may regard that as an underestimate.

A study in *People Management*, the IPD's magazine, says that most of those testing positive are City employees applying for other City jobs, and are often employed dealing with substantial sums of money.

Dr Michael Turner, chief medical officer for City Medical Services, which runs drug-testing programmes for businesses, says today that "drugs are not only readily available, but significant numbers of prospective employees regularly take them".

He says: "Most recruits who are screened in the City — including those who test positive — are already working for financial institutions, often in senior positions."

Drugs cross occupational, class and regional barriers, he says. "There is a perception that cocaine is the most commonly abused drug in the City. That isn't true — cannabis is. Two out of every three people who test positive in the City have been using cannabis."

The remainder of City drug users tend to use cocaine. LSD or amphetamines. Cocaine, Dr Turner says, is "expensive and wears off quickly", and Ecstasy has "fallen into disrepute" because 90 per cent of what is sold as Ecstasy turns out to be sugar, flour or some other substance.

LSD is "easy to get hold of at the moment, and appears to give good value for money because it is cheap and has a long-lasting effect".

A number of companies claim that they do not have a drugs problem because they never find any used syringes in the lavatories, the study says, although it adds: "If you measure the severity of your drug problem by the number of needles you find, you might as well give up now."

Arguing for employers to introduce random drug tests of employees as well as pre-employment screening if they want to deter people from taking drugs, the IPD's study says that a high peformer in the City who is found to be taking drugs is likely to be "dried out" rather than dismissed, though people testing positive before being hired are almost always rejected.

But already-employed users are often put through eight-week rehabilitation programmes costing £6,000 or more per employee. Texaco, the oil company, gives positive-testing employees a second chance, though they are then monitored for five years. Shell and British Rail are other companies cited as having tough drugs policies, while the Bank of England's code of conduct says that financial institutions should take "positive steps" to deal with the problem of drugs at work.

Dr Turner says that alcohol abuse can cause as many problems at work as drugs, though a cannabis user is likely to be treated far more severely. While alcohol can kill quite easily, he says, "cannabis is only fatal if a large enough block of it falls on someone from a great height".

National Home Loans returns to dividend list

BY ROBERT MILLER

NATIONAL Home Loans (NHL), the centralised lender, signalled its return to the corporate fold by declaring a dividend of 1p, its first payout in nearly five years. The payment was made in spite of a "difficult trading environment".

NHL, which yesterday announced a 32 per cent increase in profits to £15.1 million in the year to September 30, said the reward for shareholders was "part of a progressive dividend policy, subject to performance and the prevailing capital requirements of the business".

Jonathan Perry, chairman of NHL, said the recovery phase in the company's fortunes, from corporate basket case in the early 1990s to a more prudently managed and broadly based business, ended at the start of the year with a £50.2 million rights issue and capital reconstruction. He said future growth at NHL would come from activities outside the traditional mortgage market, such as supplying credit, administrative and debt collection skills to other financial services providers, utilities and local authorities. In July, NHL, which may also enter the consumer lending market, agreed to administer and collect on a portfolio of unsecured loan balances on behalf of a leading US bank.

On the old NHL Corporation mortgage book, which has 31,646 (34,933) accounts with gross mortgage balances of £1.4 billion (£1.5 billion), repossessions rose in the second half to 406 from 348, although for the year they fell to 754 from 837. Traditionally, many borrowers with an NHL Corporation mortgage have paid higher rates than the prevailing standard mortgage rate, reflecting the overall quality and risk profile of the portfolio. The company said redemption rates were higher in the later stages of the financial year, primarily as a result of remortgage activity in the summer.

NHL's Homeloans Direct, the group's new lending company which distributes its products through a network of 1,600 authorised organisations, made offers and had applications in progress to more than 1,600 people with a value of £76 million. Mr Perry said its new mortgage lending arm would not chase volume business at any price, arguing that substantial upfront inducements, such as the cashbacks and discounts which currently dominate the homeloans market, were "unsustainable in the medium term as this type of lending is only marginally profitable".

Mr Perry said the rise in NHL's expenses of £10.3 million (£8.6 million), reflected a provision of £750,000 to cover redundancy costs arising from "a review of operations" this summer which resulted in 75 job losses. Loss provisions fell more than 50 per cent to £4.3 million compared with the previous financial year.

Maxwell grief 'was ignored'

BY A CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS "shabby and grotesque" to suggest that Kevin Maxwell was motivated by power and the creation of wealth when he pledged shares to secure a loan for the ailing Maxwell empire, a jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

In circumstances of "grief, shock and exhaustion", Kevin was trying to save the family business, said Alun Jones, QC, Kevin Maxwell's counsel, on day two of his closing speech. "We argue he was honest to pledge the shares to try and save the group."

The prosecution has said he was dishonest because he knew that £22 million of shares in Teva, the Israeli company, belonged to BIM, which administered the pension fund, and not to the Maxwell Group (RMG).

Kevin Maxwell has told the jury he believed his father, who told him during their last meeting that the shares had been transferred from BIM to RMG.

Suggestions by Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting, that Kevin Maxwell had been motivated by power and the creation of wealth were described by Mr Jones as "grotesque and shabby".

"To say he was interested in power is a complete travesty of the evidence you have heard from other witnesses." He said the prosecution had not allowed for Kevin Maxwell's desire to save a family legacy.

Dealing with other claims by Mr Suckling about Kevin Maxwell, Mr Jones said: "What witness has said he was a bully? What witness has said he threatened any witness? The worst we have is that he was brisk."

Kevin, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Larry Trachtenberg, 42, a former Maxwell adviser, deny conspiracy to defraud the pension funds.


Yoav Gottesman, the chairman of JLI, said trading conditions were difficult

Cutback on film snacks hits JLI

BY MARTIN BARROW

MOVIE buffs munched their way through less popcorn than expected in the summer, according to JLI Group, the snack foods company, which blamed the hot weather and a poor supply of films.

The company also gave a warning of a downturn in the appetite for nuts, with demand unlikely to recover in the short term. As a result, it is closing its snack-processing factory at Bootle at a cost of £800,000. The shares fell 7p yesterday after it said it would hold the interim dividend at 1.65p a share for the half year to September 30. During the period, pre-tax profits rose to £2.8 million, from £1.7 million, assisted by a £1.4 million exception gain on the sale of Jack L. Israel, the import and distribution business.

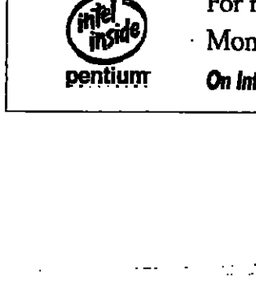
At the operating level, profits dropped to £1.8 million from £2.2 million, with a decline in turnover to £40.7 million from £54.3 million.

Yoav Gottesman, the chairman, said that the results were attained against a continued background of difficult trading conditions.

Earnings, excluding the exceptional gain, fell to 2.3p a share from 2.8p. The dividend will be paid on February 2.

UK and other foreign institutional investors expected to play key role

Australia to sell rest of Commonwealth Bank


Beazley: sale objective

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

A SIGNIFICANT stake in Commonwealth Bank, one of Australia's biggest banks, looks set to be sold to UK and other foreign institutional investors after the Australian Government yesterday signalled its intention to sell its entire A$5 billion (£2.5 billion) stake.

The Government had planned to sell its remaining 50.4 per cent interest in the bank in two tranches, with one sale to take place by next June and the other in 1997.

However, Kim Beazley, Minister for Finance and Deputy Prime Minister, confirmed yesterday: "The objective at this stage of the game is to look at a sale in its entirety this financial year." He added: "The sale is something we would have to give consideration to as we look at the advice that comes to us, but those are our intentions to this point."

The Commonwealth Bank increased its profits by 44 per cent to A$983.2 million for the year to June 1995. The Australian Government sold the first 29.3 per cent of the bank in September 1991 for A$1.7 billion and sold a second tranche of 20.3 per cent in November 1993 for A$1.3 billion.

Australian banking analysts say that the sale of the shares in a single issue — by far the biggest in Australia — will be far too great for the local stock market to swallow. One said: "Offshore investors will be the key component of this transaction. This is just too big to be done domestically."

Selling the entire stake in one go would, however, enable the Australian Government to balance its budget ahead of the Federal election, which must take place before May next year. One banking analyst said: "Politically and budget-mindedly, it's incredibly sensible. They're almost dependent on it."

The Government had budgeted for a small surplus of A$718 million for the year to June 1996, but delays in the sale of ANL, the national shipping line, to Britain's P&O, and the cancellation of the sale of the remaining shares in AIDC, the finance company, mean that it now faces a budget deficit of almost A$1 billion.

However, its decision to open the door to a high level of foreign ownership could backfire — there was a huge outcry when foreign institutions ended up with about half the shares in Qantas, Australia's national airline, after an offering this year.

The lead managers to the sale of the final tranche are expected to be appointed next week with County Natwest, BZW and SBC Warburg understood to be the three leading contenders for the role.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Power chief to get chair at Medeva

MEDEVA, the drugs company that attempted to merge with Fisons in the summer, has appointed John Baker, the chairman of National Power, to take over from Bernard Taylor, the outgoing chairman. Mr Taylor, who joined Medeva at its formation six years ago, said he had always intended to retire at 60. He will step down in April with enough share options to ensure him a comfortable semi-retirement in Australia. He has about 4.3 million options, most of which were granted at 89p. The shares traded yesterday at around 274p.

Medeva, a medium-sized player whose speciality is vaccines and respiratory treatments, is trying to build up its foreign presence through the acquisition of both pharmaceuticals companies and individual products that are in their development stage. Fisons would have given it a ready-made international sales and marketing arm. Mr Baker, 57, who is currently a non-executive director of Medeva, will become non-executive chairman and will be working with Bill Bogie, the chief executive. His salary, which has not been set, will likely be two to three times higher than the £25,000 he receives now.

Sema buys French stake

SEMA GROUP, the Anglo-French systems integration and facilities management company, is acquiring a 40 per cent stake in TS FM Holdings, an outsourcing and software maintenance subsidiary of France Télécom, for £22.9 million. Sema has an option to buy a further 10 per cent stake in TS FM, the outsourcing business of FTLIS, the information technology arm of France Télécom, for £5.9 million. The move follows the acquisition in 1993 by FTLIS of a 25 per cent stake in Sema's outsourcing business in the UK. TS FM's operations will be integrated into Sema's worldwide network. TS FM had a turnover of £67.8 million in 1994.

Aetna in $4bn sale

TRAVELERS GROUP has agreed to buy Aetna Life & Casualty's property and casualty business for $4 billion in cash, creating one of America's largest property and casualty insurers. Travelers expects the acquisition to result in the elimination of about 3,300 jobs over the next two years. Both companies are based in Hartford, Connecticut. The new company will be financed by raising $900 million through preferred stock, $1.5 billion of senior debt through public offerings, and about $1.3 billion of equity both through private sales, including a separate $200 million investment from Aetna, and a public offering of common stock next year.

Support for aerospace

TIM EGGAR, the Minister of State for Trade and Industry, last night pledged the Government's support for a campaign to restore the health of Britain's aerospace industry and win a 13 per cent share of the world aerospace market. In a speech in Bristol, Mr Eggar backed his promise with the publication of a joint government/industry statement of aims entitled *Partnership in Aerospace*. Sir Barry Duxbury, director of the Society of British Aerospace Companies, hailed the Government support for the industry's National Aerospace Framework as of "fundamental importance".

Evans of Leeds ahead

EVANS of Leeds, the property investment and development company, lifted pre-tax profits to £5.4 million from £4.6 million in the half year to September 30, reflecting an 8.5 per cent increase in the rent roll to £25.5 million and a 6.4 per cent rise in investment income to £12.72 million. Acquisitions of investment properties in the period totalled £9 million. The programme of development and refurbishments is expected to reach £10 million this year. Turnover was £13.1 million, compared with £12.3 million previously. Earnings were 3.02p a share, rising from 2.65p. The interim dividend is increased to 0.96p a share from 0.87p, payable on January 5.

Rise in foreign firms

MORE than a quarter of employees in manufacturing plants in Scotland in 1994 — estimated at 83,000 — worked for foreign-owned firms, according to *Overseas Ownership in Scottish Manufacturing Industry, 1994*, published by the Scottish Office. More than 56 per cent of these were in American-owned plants. Statistics derived from plants with 11 or more employees show that over the ten years to 1994 the number of overseas-owned manufacturing plants rose by 4 per cent and associated employment by 15 per cent. In the past two years, however, employment in overseas-owned plants fell slightly.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Teamwork is the future

Anthony Carey believes corporate governance must blend 'opposites'

Sir Ronnie Hampel, chairman of the new committee on corporate governance, has said that striking the right balance between entrepreneurship and stewardship will be one of its key tasks.

Fortunately, the tension between the two is far less than is sometimes suggested by protagonists of one school or the other. For a lean and effective corporate governance system, they need to be seen as indivisible elements of good management to be pursued simultaneously, rather than as forces pulling in opposite directions.

Over the longer term, the top-performing companies are likely to continue to be those that satisfy the rising expectations of their stakeholders. The markets in which UK companies operate are changing rapidly. The whole of the European Union is now our domestic market and, globally, competition is increasing.

A communications revolution is under way. Environmental issues are high on the business agenda and work patterns are changing. In a world where certainties are gone, companies will succeed only if they enjoy the trust and wholehearted support of their customers, shareholders, employees and other stakeholders. An excessive emphasis on either stewardship or entrepreneurship at the expense of the other will not be a good recipe for survival, let alone prosperity.

To make a positive contribution to the governance of UK-listed companies without increasing "red tape", the new committee should identify the critical success factors underpinning world-class performance. Ensuring that board members, executive and non-executive, are individually of the highest ability and have a strong sense of business ethics, will surely be close to the top of the list. In addition, board members need to work together as a team to command the confidence of their principal stakeholders.

These objectives are most likely to be secured by all directors being selected through a formal process which, along with the appointments themselves, should be a matter for the whole board. At present, such requirements apply only to non-executives.

The process adopted should be disclosed in the annual report so that shareholders can have the relevant information when voting on new appointments. Further, all companies should prepare a formal job specification before identifying possible candidates for a position, and consider requiring the largest listed companies to establish nomination committees — more than 60 per cent of the top 250 already have them. Corporate governance does not stop at the boardroom door. The remit of the new committee includes examining the role of shareholders. Institutional investors control about 70 per cent of domestically-held shares in UK-listed companies and thus have a pivotal role in governance.

HELEN TILLEY



Anthony Carey says critical success factors show the way

A recent institute research study* found that most institutional investors were committed to voting all their shares, but, for a variety of reasons, this often did not happen in practice. Overall, shareholders cast only about 35 per cent of eligible votes in large listed companies at their AGMs.

The study suggested companies should disclose the level of voting on each resolution, institutional shareholders disclose their voting record for their portfolio as a whole, and measures be introduced to increase the use of proxy votes. Ways of encouraging the individual shareholder to participate more actively should also be identified.

The 12 members of the committee have a wealth of experience of managing, auditing, advising and investing in listed companies. Their verdict on the present state of corporate governance will shape the way companies are run for the new century.

** Voting: The Role of Institutional Investors in Corporate Governance by Dr Chris Mallin (for details, tel 0171 920 8508).*

Anthony Carey, who puts a personal view, is secretary of the corporate governance group of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Time runs short for tax reform

THE evidence mounts. There is not only the usual mass of legislation in the small print of the Budget and the additional press releases. That is, in effect, the evidence for the defence. The evidence for the prosecution received another boost last week with the publication of the interim report on tax legislation from the Tax Law Review Committee (TLRC). The case, for which the evidence is accumulating, is tax simplification.

There is urgency here. The next evidence arrives from the Inland Revenue. Under a pioneering amendment to this year's Finance Act, the Revenue is compelled to publish its report on tax simplification by the year end. This is unprecedented and it is likely the Revenue will take a cautious line.

Ernst & Young published its assessment under the title *Slipping up on the Road to Tax Reform.* "Throughout the year," said the report, "there have been signs that the Revenue's boffins have been toiling away on this report. Strange ideas have been spotted floating through the sky, rather like fiscal UFOs; venerable old proposals have been exhumed from the ground and aired; teams of taxmen have thumbed suspiciously through the slender volumes containing the tax statutes of other nations".

Now they have the TLRC's interim report, they must know time is running out. In February the Financial Secretary to the Treasury assured tax practitioners "the Revenue will want to take full account of the progress of the TLRC". But now it is published, I doubt they will draw any comfort.



ROBERT BRUCE

The game is given away before you so much as turn over the first page of the report. The foreword is written by Lord Howe of Aberavon, the committee's president, a man who presided over numerous Budgets while Chancellor of the Exchequer. In Opposition in 1977, he made a speech in which he denounced "the incoherent drift towards a tax system that is incomprehensible, unrespected, unenforceable — and spinning like a top". Then there was a change of Government and as its first Chancellor, he was in a position to do something about it.

His words in this foreword are mournful. "No, alas, after years in Government, almost half of them as Chancellor or Leader of the House and in a position, or so it might be thought, to do something about all this, I have to confess nothing has changed." He concludes "We did not try hard enough", and hopes that "this strikingly clear report will inspire a fresh generation to try again".

Certainly the report should do that. The question is whether the entrenched and defensive souls at the Revenue, so used to getting it in the neck from political masters and from tax practitioners as well as the traditional complaints of the taxpayers, will want, or be be able, to do anything about it.

The committee's main points are straightforward. The report rejects the usual Revenue argument that simplifying something means that it loses precision and so is open to abuse. It makes the point that the language of tax legislation is aimed at the courts and not at the users. That is the first part of the thicket to be cleared away. "We have no doubt that tax legislation can be written in an accessible style, that it can be no less accurate than the current drafting style, and that there would be very substantial benefits for taxpayers, practitioners and government if it were." To make it clearer, the committee has redrafted two examples and published them with the report. What is remarkable about these is that not only is the language wonderfully clearer, but the purpose of the legislation shines out as well. The second point is that much of the most complex legislation runs into a morass because no one is clear on its effects.

This was precisely why there is still such a fuss about the Paramount Airways case. That came about because the intention of an amendment to legislation was made clear in meetings with Government but was never set down clearly. Hence the committee's view that explanatory memoranda should be published to complement the Finance Bill. "This might include background material, a note of the purpose of each clause and how it would operate, worked examples, answers to difficult points, or any other relevant matter."

Thirdly, to get around the problem of a government saying that rewriting all of the nation's tax legislation would cost too much, a pilot project is recommended. After that a sensible decision based on costs and benefits could be taken. Time is running short and legislation is only going to become more complex.

In 20 years, will a future Lord Clarke of Trent Bridge be shedding tears of remorse over lost opportunities?

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Profits for all — on the payroll

IT IS not just Budget pundits who get worried about profit-related pay schemes. Staff at Price Waterhouse are too. The latest issue of *The Reporter*, the firm's in-house monthly, reflects doubts about the payment of the PRP tranche for the 1995-96 year. "Since there are so many rumours circulating", it says, "the firm would like to take this opportunity to confirm a payment will be made in December." But with the accounts not yet finalised no figures are available. "Nonetheless the firm is confident that the payments will be in line with expectations," it states before adding, "you must be in service at the time of the payment to be eligible to receive it". Indeed.

Paper chase

INCORPORATION may not be the panacea. According to Robert Half, the recruitment consultant, young accountants are jumping ship from large accounting firms in unprecedented numbers. A survey shows that much of this disloyalty dates back to the sudden redundancies of the early 1990s as well as the fact that elsewhere their salaries will leap and their hours plummet. But there is another factor, hitherto unrecorded. They hate the pedantic paperwork. "The pressure of timesheets," says the survey, "was a demoralising irritant."

Ring of confidence

TIMING, as all good finance directors know, is everything. So when Terry Carroll was finalising his thoughtful study of *The Changing Role of the Finance Director*, (available from Technical Communications on 01462 437075), he approached captains of industry for comments to put in the foreword. "The key qualities," wrote one of them, include "relationships with the investment community and the ability to obtain their confidence." On publication of the study last week those words of Sir Rocco Forte had a certain ring about them.

THE ubiquitous Adrian Randall, the doyen of the charities-accounting world, should need no introductions. But in last week's article we neglected to point out that he heads the charities unit at the firm of Moores Rowland. So, if you didn't know then, you do now.

ROBERT BRUCE



Safety seen with fresh eyes.

In designing the new Mercedes E-class the task for us was how to make a safe car safer. Here are some of the things we have done.

Using a completely different crash testing procedure, we have now designed a new front end.

One collision, it not only gives more protection to the driver of the Mercedes. Less impact energy would be imparted to the other driver, too.

In fact, recent crash tests carried out by 'Auto Motor und Sport' magazine resulted in the least amount of damage to a passenger safety cell ever recorded.

Just as impressive, was the level of injury measured by the crash test dummies.

This was also significantly lower than any previous figure.

The new E-class also has the first safety belt system developed to work specifically with an airbag.

First, it will restrain you. Then, as the airbag inflates, the belt will slacken slightly allowing you to go forward. The result will be to reduce considerably the risk of any injury to your chest.

We have padded more of the interior, in particular, the dashboard, the steering wheel rim, the roof and the door trim.

Talking of doors, we've also developed better side protection. Both front seat passengers now have the option of side airbags which need just seven milliseconds to activate.

Of course, the usefulness of all our new safety features is something we hope you'll never actually see.

The new Mercedes E-class is, on the other hand, something we hope you do see at the earliest opportunity.

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Early gains fail to hold

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2507½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2437½	+ 99½	4.4	10.8
635	413	Abbey Nat	635	+ 17	3.8	12.7
368	258	Albert Inve	357	...	4.1	10.3
289	198	Aust New Z	289	+ 5	5.6	..
4131½	2531½	Bank Americ	4131½	...	2.1	28.5
276	191½	Bank Scotland	269	- 2	2.9	11.9
812½	557½	Barclays	786	- 6	3.5	10.7
479	388	Bk of Ireland	467	...	3.6	9.4
525	418	Cater Allen	525	...	3.4	9.2
4862½	2650	Citicorp	4375	+ 12½	3.9	16.7
340½	216½	Close Bros	318	+ 1	3.4	14.4
2162½	1729½	Commercial	2151½	+ 134½	3.6	..
1375	993½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1209½	...	0.5	..
3231½	2775	Deutsche Bk	3116½	- 3½	2.4	..
861½	588½	Espirito Santo	582½	+ 6½	6.1	7.8
1671	1138½	Fuji Bank Y	1532	+ ½	0.4	..
490	395	Gerrard Nat	454	...	6.2	14.7
253	180	Hambros	231	...	4.7	..
970	589	HSBC	968	+ 18	3.6	12.6
950	578	HSBC HK	948½	+ 16½	3.7	12.3
358	278	Irish Perm	358	+ 7	3.4	8.3
463	353	Joseph (L)	463	...	4.8	15.6
145	95	Kleinwort	130	+ ½	6.2	12.0
882	630	Lloyds	837	+ 7	5.8	13.4
565	479	Nat Aust Bk	559	+ 7	7.1	..
697	454	Nat West	675	+ 3	4.2	10.5
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500	...	6.6	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	45	...	2.8	18.0
569	379½	Rgl Bk Scot	547	+ 11½	3.8	13.2
1478	906½	Schroders	1333	...	1.3	19.0
1180	823½	Schroders NV	1135	...	1.6	16.2
110	81	Singer & Fried	110	...	4.2	11.4
610	246	Standd Chart	582	+ 16	1.8	15.0
216	217	TSB	197	...	3.5	14.2
121	70	Union	111	...	3.4	..
1745½	904½	Wells Fargo	1738½	+ 11½	2.2	..
270	211	Westpac	270	+ 2½	5.1	..
265	200	Wilshail	255	...	5.2	15.7

BREWERIES

233	183	Ascot Hldgs	233	+ 6	..	8.6
781	487	Bass	682	+ 10	3.9	16.6
649	520	Boddington	638	+ 1	3.5	22.5
192	137	Burnmed Brwf	182	...	3.7	17.6
186	137	Elgridge P 'A'	173	...	5.1	21.0
443	335	Fuller Sm 'A'	406	...	2.5	21.8
569	402	Greenalls Grp	547	+ 2	3.7	15.2
658	468	Greene King	628	...	2.8	16.8
397	240	Hardy Hanson	368	...	4.2	13.5
180	150	Hawthorne	155	...	4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3113	...	2.2	16.7
347	219	Marstellet	312	...	2.1	16.2
321	286	Morgan Thmp	312	+ 6	2.3	15.9
543	393	Morland	525	+ ½	1.7	..
8.	6½	Paramount	7½	+ ½	3.8	11.6
605	307	Regent Inns	605	...	1.4	23.8
2208	1787½	SA Breweries	2200	+ 12½	1.6	29.4
649	382	Scott & Newc	627	- 10	3.6	16.9
337	226	Scott & Nwe PIP	330	...	3.3	..
359	311	Vaux Group	354	...	4.7	14.9
640	448	Wetherspoon JD	637	...	1.5	..
679	531	Whitbread	662	- 9	3.9	16.5
1000	686	Wolverhampton D	972	...	3.4	17.5
398	286	Yates Bros	387	+ 1	4.3	27.7
475	425	Young 'A'	456	...	4.3	17.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

150	125	Aztec	140	...	4.7	9.1
198	143	Alfen	195	...	3.5	14.5
316	54	Amec	98½	+ ½	3.8	20.6
575	131	Andrews Sykes	573	+ 3	..	..
1675	1135	Arnold	1497	+ 15	1.9	16.0
105	37½	Ayerscroft	39	...	10.6	6.2
38	33	Bailey (Geo) Con	35	...	8.2	6.1
41½	30½	Barcaro	35	...	..	..
258	158	Barratt Devs	224	+ ½	4.2	11.9
170	125	Beazer Homes	165	+ 1½	4.4	11.9
180	150	Bellway	254	+ 10	3.9	..
22	15	Bestwinch	17	...	15	9.1
473	315	Bernerley Gp	475	+ 1	2.8	14.8
185	150	Bett Bros	178	...	5.6	..
265	190	Blue (Wendy)	198	...	4.5	9.3
124	81	Brandon Hire	90	- 1	3.2	15.9
40	17	Brickwood Grp	24	+ 1	6.3	4.7
38	26	Br Bldg & Eng	40	...	25.0	5.5
152	96	Bryant	102½	+ 2½	6.7	9.2
121	96	CALA	111	...	3.6	10.7
38	16	Camphill & Ann	18	...	..	14.3
64	49	Clarke T	46	...	10.4	17.6
262½	67	Costain	74	...	..	..
110	53	Countryside	77	...	6.8	11.0
81	43	Crest Nicholson	65	- 1	3.8	9.1
96	70	Cussins	76	- 1	9.1	6.8
293	165	Eve Group	189	...	7.6	9.1
58	13	Guilford	19	...	9.6	38.6
863	738	Hanson (NU)	738	...	..	..
86	61	Green (Eric)	61	...	10.5	26.6
278	178	Hemlock Exprd	223	...	1.5	23.0
158	119	Henton-Charrt	138	...	2.6	14.7
97	73	Higgs & Hill	93	...	3.2	15.0
14	14	Hemphill Hldgs	15	...	6.7	17.5
29½	6	James	29½	...	..	..
137	98	Keller	133	...	3.6	12.9
255	165	Laing (J)	255	+ 4	4.4	31.5
110	82	Laing (John)	105	+ 3	5.4	12.1
67	12	Lovell (Y J)	66	+ 3	5.0	12.5
210	176	Maunders (Jh)	186	...	3.8	9.9
181	104	McAlpine (Ah)	134	- 1	5.6	15.3
68	48	McCarthy & S	65	...	18.3	..
51	37	Morgan Sindall	75	...	1.6	20.6
121	116	Morrison Const	121	...	2.1	10.8
106	53	Mowlem (J)	60	...	4.2	29.5
216	162	Persimmon	180	+ 5	6.6	12.5
112½	76½	Pochin	108	...	2.0	12.3
64	44	Prestigel	62	...	3.2	14.9
93	13	Raine Ind	17	...	3.7	..
83	65	Secure Retire	68	...	2.6	9.1
123	93	Redrow	124½	...	3.1	11.6
398	345	Shanlin Hldgs	345	...	3.3	13.8
1045	758	Shanks	1045	...	2.4	17.0
362	258	Stanrose	353	...	1.0	22.4
176	142	Tay Homes	149	...	5.9	10.2
198	98	Taylor Woodrow	114	- 2	2.5	21.7
568	415	Tilbury Douglas	443	- 2	3.3	15.1
59½	38	Tones Hldr	52	...	5.1	13.7
53	6	Trencherwood	16	- 1	..	4.1
20	9½	Try Group	9½	...	6.6	13.3
109	78	Warnpool	78	...	6.8	9.5
115	93	Washtenotes	105	- 3	5.4	9.6
60	37	Ward Hidgs	45	...	4.1	10.5
196	133	Westbrorf	183	...	4.0	13.6
9½	2½	Wiggins	3½	...	..	20.6
174	124	Wilson (C)	152	+ 2	3.7	11.1
372	308	Wilson Bowdn	340	+ 4	3.6	12.7
138	97	Wimpey G	134	+ 6	5.1	19.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

14	7½	Alumasc	13½	...	0.9	..
445	311½	Alumasc	430	...	2.2	18.1
342	267½	BPB ind	311	+ 2	3.6	14.5
133	94	Baggeridge Br	108	...	3.6	10.2
36	22½	Bardon	32	...	9.3	13.2
38	28	Brockley	35	...	10.9	..
333	255	Blue Circle	329	...	4.5	15.0
89	72	Brendon PLC	78	...	7.7	10.8
136	108	Br Dredging	108	...	6.5	14.1
488	338	CRH	461	...	3.5	17.3
46	38	Calstead Roy	38	...	6.8	..
210	143	Cape	146	...	9.4	11.3
273	174	Caradon	197	+ 5	6.0	10.2
134½	99½	Caradon pff	106½	+ 2	9.5	..
56	18	Chedfala Gp	19	...	13.2	..
185	169	Clan Bros	178	...	5.6	..
265	190	Coal (Wendy)	198	...	4.5	9.3
124	81	Brandon Hire	90	- 1	3.2	15.9
40	17	Brickwood Grp	24	+ 1	6.3	4.7
38	26	Br Bldg & Eng	40	...	25.0	5.5
152	96	Bryant	102½	+ 2½	6.7	9.2
121	96	CALA	111	...	3.6	10.7
38	16	Camphill & Ann	18	...	..	14.3
64	49	Clarke T	46	...	10.4	17.6
262½	67	Costain	74	...	..	..
110	53	Countryside	77	...	6.8	11.0
81	43	Crest Nicholson	65	- 1	3.8	9.1
96	70	Cussins	76	- 1	9.1	6.8
293	165	Eve Group	189	...	7.6	9.1
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863	738	Hanson (NU)	738	...	..	..
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278	178	Hemlock Exprd	223	...	1.5	23.0
158	119	Henton-Charrt	138	...	2.6	14.7
97	73	Higgs & Hill	93	...	3.2	15.0
14	14	Hemphill Hldgs	15	...	6.7	17.5
29½	6	James	29½	...	..	..
137	98	Keller	133	...	3.6	12.9
255	165	Laing (J)	255	+ 4	4.4	31.5
110	82	Laing (John)	105	+ 3	5.4	12.1
67	12	Lovell (Y J)	66	+ 3	5.0	12.5
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68	48	McCarthy & S	65	...	18.3	..
51	37	Morgan Sindall	75	...	1.6	20.6
121	116	Morrison Const	121	...	2.1	10.8
106	53	Mowlem (J)	60	...	4.2	29.5
216	162	Persimmon	180	+ 5	6.6	12.5
112½	76½	Pochin	108	...	2.0	12.3
64	44	Prestigel	62	...	3.2	14.9
93	13	Raine Ind	17	...	3.7	..
83	65	Secure Retire	68	...	2.6	9.1
123	93	Redrow	124½	...	3.1	11.6
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53	6	Trencherwood	16	- 1	..	4.1
20	9½	Try Group	9½	...	6.6	13.3
109	78	Warnpool	78	...	6.8	9.5
115	93	Washtenotes	105	- 3	5.4	9.6
60	37	Ward Hidgs	45	...	4.1	10.5
196	133	Westbrorf	183	...	4.0	13.6
9½	2½	Wiggins	3½	...	..	20.6
174	124	Wilson (C)	152	+ 2	3.7	11.1
372	308	Wilson Bowdn	340	+ 4	3.6	12.7
138	97	Wimpey G	134	+ 6	5.1	19.5

BUSINESS SERVICES

2	0½	Anglo Utd	1	...	..	..
170	57	App Netw	82	- 6	..	..
7½	3½	Bailey (Chr)	3½	- ½	..	..
59	36	Black Arrow	37	- 1	10.5	6.5
88	65	Br Biosource	68	...	..	28.4
6	3	Cash Gp	4	...	..	..
9½	4½	Clarnico	6	...	5.1	18.8
161	135	Cossit	156	+ 1	1.0	..
227	215	Filofax	215	...	1.4	17.9
43	24	Hambros	41½	- 1	2.4	18.5
268	238	Hunstock	268	...	5.3	13.5
229	184	Cumbria (Wm)	229	...	4.3	22.5
486	352	Countrywide	399	- 1	4.9	18.0
394½	328	Crostrt	335	...	3.4	14.6
233	125	Dootles	215	...	3.4	14.0
282	234	Ellis & Everard	255	...	4.1	14.9
187	98	Exm Colour	94	...	2.5	22.7
234	114	Carbon	214	...	5.6	17.0
145	85	Hickson	90	...	5.8	8.6
1165½	1123½	Hoechst	1165½	+ 50½	4.4	..
251½	173	Holiday Chem	173	- 1	3.6	12.3
869½	660	ICI	768	+ 6	4.6	14.7
360	186½	Ingenr	335	+ 1	1.7	23.4
159	97½	Kalon	106	+ 3	5.4	12.1
852	620	Lagorte	779	+ 1	3.7	16.0
85	65	MITIE	65	...	3.1	11.7
385	268	Manders	269	...	4.8	13.0
66	50	Mastrefast	64	- 1	4.3	16.6
516	382½	Mornerstan	473½	+ 3½	5.0	18.8
455	373½	Ponch	378	- 3	1.7	27.1
250	148	Sceptrd	232	- 1	3.5	15.8
34	16	Sutcliffe Speak	27	...	1.9	33.5
956½	695½	Tarkett Chem	956½	+ 30½	0.9	12.7
266	186	Wellington Hdg	260	...	3.4	19.1
1068	728	Wassallune R	993	...	2.6	16.9
314	230	Yates Chem	274	...	3.9	12.1
340	236	Yule Catto	310	...	3.0	16.4

DISTRIBUTORS

113½	88½	ABI Lstrd	94	- 1	5.8	..
595	498	Adam & Harvey	498	...	4.9	6.6
21	14	Alexanders	14	...	6.2	23.0
113	88	Appleyard	90	...	8.3	9.7
4½	3½	Arc Br Eng	3½	...	2.1	28.5
623	518	BSG Group	565	...	4.3	16.3
48	28	Bisnt	37	+ 1	..	..
24½	15½	Bloring Power	16½	...	7.6	8.1
28	18	Bogod 'A'	26	...	3.4	9.2
483	345	Brammer	435	- 2	3.9	16.7
21	10½	Bridgend Gpt	17	...	7.5	..
95	78	Brit Fibregs	91	...	4.9	12.3
270	215	Calleric	253	...	5.7	18.0
88	54	Central Mtr	67	+ 1	9.1	18.2
60	36	Cook (DC)	58½	...	4.2	12.0
3200½	2700	Electrocomps	3200	- 4	4.2	12.0
155	125	Dng Motors	128	...	7.0	10.6
588	503	Devenare B	503	...	1.9	11.1
561	408	Dickons	433	+ 1	4.3	..
333	236	Electrocomponent	331	+ 3	2.4	22.5
247	153	Eurodis Elec	232	...	4.0	20.7
215	64	Eurodollar	95	...	15.5	3.2
145	85	Hall Simpson	130	+ ½	6.6	8.2
682	530	Lloyds	671	+ 7	5.8	13.4
565	479	Nat Aust Bk	559	+ 7	7.1	..
697	454	Nat West	675	+ 3	4.2	10.5
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500	...	6.6	3.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	45	...	2.8	18.0
569	379½	Rgl Bk Scot	547	+ 11½	3.8	13.2
1478	906½	Schroders	1333	...	1.3	19.0
1180	823½	Schroders NV	1135	...	1.6	16.2
110	81	Singer & Fried	110	...	4.2	11.4
610	246	Standd Chart	582	+ 16	1.8	15.0
216	217	TSB	197	...	3.5	14.2
121	70	Union	111	...	3.4	..
1745½	904½	Wells Fargo	1738½	+ 11½	2.2	..
270	211	Westpac	270	+ 2½	5.1	..
265	200	Wilshail	255	...	5.2	15.7

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

175	123½	Ackrost	123½	- ½	7.9	9.9
353	235	Autotransmit	353	- 2	2.8	13.3
940	729½	Bradken Hal	891	+ 13	2.7	20.3
348	291	BTR	339	...	3.5	14.7
562	405	BMTI	554	- 9	5.1	12.6
170½	144	Barstand Ind	172	...	1.1	45.5
131	71	Bibby (Jh)	117	...	8.1	..
51	40½	Brierley Inv	49¾	+ 1	6.8	2.7
948	743	Charter	793	- 12	3.5	12.9
313	169	Cookson	309	+ 6	3.0	19.6
1353	100	Gramalkin Hdg	138	- 3	5.3	15.6
2434½	185	Hanson	1892½	+ 4½	7.8	10.5
1625	135	Harrison Crosfld	1625	...	7.4	10.4
3525	2500	Hunt (Wilkinson)	3525	+ 25	2.9	19.3
5841	3414	Jardine Math	5841	+ 99	4.1	7.5
37	26	Jourdan (T)	37	...	5.9	7.2
174	134	Lonrho	168	- ½	3.4	22.5
171	133	McLeod Russel	168	+ 1	4.8	15.9
44	34	Porter Chadbrn	42	...	..	14.3
691	447	Powell Duffryn	471	- 1	6.2	12.1
152	123	Rayner	148	...	7.0	10.2
178	130	Senior Dorby	161	...	2.5	14.8
230	164	Stanley P	210	...	5.7	13.3
207	148	Sykes	178	- ½	6.8	11.9
115	91	Tilhurst (B)	111	- 1	3.1	11.7
94	71	Tomkins	93	...	2.2	17.8
184½	150½	Tr Pac	168	...	3.6	15.6
24½	11½	Trafalgar H	24½	...	5.2	..
1½	1	Transtar	1½	...	..	..
136	93	Vardon	136	...	3.3	..
1½	1	Vibert	1½	...	..	..
2021½	1883½	Philips Lmp pv	2020½	+ 109½	2.0	10.3
198	151	Pilkington	195	...	5.6	13.5
257	207	Pilkington 'A' Vtg	217	...	5.6	13.5
1314	1133	Plessey	1143	...	3.9	11.4
153	96	Prescott	136	- 4	3.2	..
133	68	Prestwick	130	...	5.0	26.8
270	243	Pyron	270	+ 11	0.7	15.5
231	15	Quantel Gp	15	...	2.1	41.9
252	217	Read Elect	253	- 1	2.5	19.5
83	44	Redstecfl	83	...	3.3	18.4
401	301	Rainford	401	+ 2	..	22.6
288	205	Rotaprint	288	...	2.4	13.8
9	5	Scantronic	9	...	..	..
58	38	Silverwmths	52	+ 2	2.6	12.8
41	25	Sondrbach	35	...	8.9	10.1
238	163	Staffs Metal	238	...	2.5	15.8
5½	5	TDG Centurn	5½	...	..	..
3468½	2468½	TDG	3281½	+ 25	1.0	..
376	37	Tarmac Tech	88	- 1	..	..
180	57	Tattersalls	156	...	1.0	22.2
177	113	Tarmg Tm	177	+ 3	2.0	15.3
1048	342	Tekspec	905	- 13	0.8	50.6
289	226	Thorpe FW	269	...	2.0	15.2
164	136	TLG	146	+ 1	1.8	17.8
30	16	Total Systems	22	...	6.8	22.9
330	227	Tomkins	307	+ 6	1.8	18.9
561	369	Unitech	513	+ 2	1.8	18.9
13½	8	Verity	12½	...	1.0	19.9
465	368	Volex	439	...	5.7	15.1
78	58	Wakefield Inv	72	...	3.0	11.1
187	125	Wheeler	186	...	1.0	..

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

509	292	Acal	509	...	1.8	20.4
198	77½	Acorn Comp	198	...	..	..
888	625	Advanced	788	...	1.3	20.9
351	195	Alba	351	+ 2	2.8	17.1
266½	127½	Anacrodt	267	+ ½	1.2	..
41	30	Arlen	36	+ ½	2.3	12.1
151	77	Aston	122	+ ½	2.3	19.0
513	116	Action	486	+ 7	..	22.1
364	238	BICC	287	+ 2	6.4	16.6
250	225	Bowes Hustle	225	...	5.4	12.5
468	295	Bites	448	- 7	2.7	20.6
435	294	Brentnorpt	435	+ 5	2.7	19.5
29½	17½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	19½	+ ½	3.9	10.5
201	117	CML Micro	135	...	5.6	14.1
39	17	Channel Hldgs	29	- 1	6.7	8.2
28½	19	Chloride	25½	...	1.8	30.5
88	61	Clydelite	75	+ 4	5.1	18.7
208	165	Copymore	208	...	4.9	27.1
170	41½	Corp Elect	50	- 1	6.2	..
648	461	Cristchrch	625	...	2.6	21.2
688	530	Dares Es Sys	545	+ 13	0.5	35.2
1000	710	Delcam	980	...	2.0	23.3
565	365	Domtar	483	...	3.1	13.2
1659½	850	Encsom 'B'	1537½	+ 39½	2.9	10.6
104	64	Eurocopy	72	...	9.7	14.4
575	370	Eurotherm	568	...	1.4	25.7
345	275	Exmby Group	325	...	1.7	22.0
214	165	Filtrona Com	203	...	2.5	18.4
240	195	Forward Tech	208	...	1.4	26.0
341	289	GEC	321	+ 3	4.4	15.3
188	145	Champlin Hdg	158	...	6.7	8.4
254	194	Chloromag	178	- ½	3.4	18.2
139	91	Chrysalis	139	...	3.7	..
450	302	Cobham	450	+ 14	2.4	27.4
725	595	Colour (A)	645	...	1.2	5.9
202	149	Comentec	177	...	5.0	..
243	210	Cook (Wm)	233	...	4.6	9.3
249	189½	Dowd Brown	213	...	4.1	14.0
130	68	Dowson Pork	130	...	5.0	26.8
441	338	EBC	388	...	4.2	13.5
175	91	Elliott (B)	111	- 1	3.1	11.7
94	71	Equiplast	93	...	2.2	17.8
184½	150½	Fbi	168	...	3.6	15.6
136	91	Fidelity Int	136	...	3.3	..
1½	1	Filtrona	1½	...	..	..
1½	1	Fortech	1½	...	..	..
237	207	GEI Int	131	...	2.9	16.0
199	147	Gordon Engt	188	...	3.8	10.2
378	292	Glynwed Int	314	- 6	5.0	12.8
134	104	Graystone	12	...	5.4	8.3
89	59	Haden Maclla	84	...	3.3	22.0
198	133	Hardcastle	195	...	1.9	16.6
215	135	Hall Eng	194	...	3.6	..
5½	3½	Harrison	5½	...	6.8	25.5
58	38	Hemptoon Ind	51½	...	5.3	9.9
37	19	Hay (Norman)	30	...	..	..
137	106	Hill & Smith	107	- 4	6.8	13.5
59	28	Hopkinsons	37	+ 1	5.1	..
41	28	How Gsn	33	...	2.8	..
70	50	Howden	72½	...	4.8	9.1
219	162	Hunting	205	+ ½	6.1	19.2
348½	266	IMI	316	+ 4	4.2	38.6
67	40½	Johnson & Fit	64	...	0.6	66.4
266	239	Johnson Matth	257	...	3.0	17.2
92½	38	Jones Stepsn	48	+ 3	..	..
385	310	Judsey Ind	335	+ 5	3.5	13.8
280	205	Lincat	268	+ 2	3.6	14.2

ENGINEERING

347	167	ADM	331	...	1.8	..
91	47½	APV	84	- 1	4.8	..
248	133	ASW	133	- 7	5.9	6.4
44	24	Aero Inertia	32	...	..	..
169	42	Altec	150	+ 1	1.0	..
169	133	Ash & Lacy	167	+ 1	4.9	11.5
653	558	Atlas Engnr	643	...	4.3	22.5
165	118	Aquatec Meco	130	...	5.3	7.5
185	79	Bl Group	107	...	2.3	13.8
185	112	Babcock	148	+ 3	2.2	..
165	125	BHH	143	...	6.4	13.8
166	77	Baynes (Charles)	99	...	2.8	17.2
39½	23	Bellshill	37	+ 2	2.1	8.3
130	90	Bilton	95	...	7.0	..
421	308	Bodycote	402	- 1	1.9	20.5
81	33	Boom Inds	36	...	..	..
17	8	Brammer	17	...	4.3	16.9
128	122½

هكذا من الاصل

Benefits to rise 3.9% next April

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

PETER LILLEY, the Secretary of State for Social Security, has uprated social security benefits in line with inflation from next April. Contributory benefits, including retirement pensions, will rise by 3.9 per cent in line with the retail price index for September 1995.

The standard rate of retirement pension will rise by £2.30 a week for a single person to £61.15 and by £3.65 to £97.75 for couples. The DSS said the cost of the increases is likely to be £2.7 billion in the 1996-97 financial year.

Mr Lilley also announced a plan to restructure benefits for lone parents. The benefits system has acquired a number of elements of special help exclusively for lone parents which are not available to two-parent families. Help for couples and lone parents will gradually be brought into line but with no reduction in cash value of benefits people currently receive.

Rates of lone-parent premium paid with income-related benefits and one-parent benefit will be unchanged.

PROPOSED SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FROM APRIL 1996

Rates Weekly unless otherwise indicated.

	1995/96	1996/97
Higher rate	£46.70	£48.50
Lower rate	£31.20	£31.40
Only, elder or eldest for whom child benefit is payable	£10.40	£10.80
each subsequent child	£8.45	£8.80
Personal allowances		
Single	£36.80	£37.90
25 or over	£46.50	£47.90
Lone parent-18 or over	£46.50	£47.90
Couple-one or both over 18	£73.00	£75.20
Dependant children		
Under 11	£19.95	£16.45
11 to 15	£23.40	£24.10
16 to 17	£28.00	£28.85
18	£36.80	£37.90
Care Component		
Highest	£48.70	£48.50
Middle	£31.20	£32.40
Lowest	£12.40	£12.90
Mobility Component		
Higher	£32.65	£33.90
Lower	£12.40	£12.90
Invalid Care Allowance	£50.00	£50.00
Unemployment Benefit (daily rate)	£2.00	£2.00
Unemployment Benefit (max wkly amount)	£58.00	£61.00
Therapeutic earnings limit	£44.00	£45.50
Industrial injuris earnings level*	£2288.00	£2366.00
War pensioners earnings level*	£2288.00	£2366.00
Maternity allowance	£27.50	£28.55

*Per Annum

	1995/96	1996/97
Child credit		
under 11	£11.40	£11.75
11 to 15	£18.90	£19.45
16 to 17	£23.45	£24.15
18	£32.80	£33.80
Personal allowances:		
Single	£36.80	£37.90
16 to 24	£46.50	£47.90
Lone parent		
Under 18	£36.80	£37.90
18 or over	£46.50	£47.90
Couple		
Both under 18	£55.55	£57.20
One or both under 18	£73.00	£75.20
Dependant children		
Under 11	£15.95	£16.45
11 to 15	£23.40	£24.10
16 to 17	£28.00	£28.85
18 36.80 37.90	£36.80	£37.90
Long-term	£58.85	£61.15
Short-term (under pension age)		
lower rate	£44.40	£46.15
higher rate	£52.50	£54.55
Short-term (over pension age)		
lower & higher rate	£58.45	£58.85
Increase of Long-term incap. benefit for age		
higher rate	£12.40	£12.90
lower rate	£8.20	£8.45
Invalidity Allowance (Transitional)		
higher rate	£12.40	£12.90
middle rate	£7.80	£8.10
lower rate	£3.90	£4.05

	1995/96	1996/97
Personal allowances		
Single		
under 18-usual rate	£28.00	£28.85
18 to 24	£36.80	£37.90
25 or over	£46.50	£47.90
One parent		
under 18-usual rate	£28.00	£28.85
18 or over	£46.50	£47.90
Couple		
both under 18	£55.55	£57.20
One or both 18 or over	£73.00	£75.20
Dependant children		
under 11	£15.95	£16.45
11 to 15	£23.40	£24.10
16 to 17	£28.00	£28.85
18	£36.80	£37.90
Residential Allowance		
(except Greater London)	£51.00	£53.00
Greater London	£57.00	£60.00
Premiums		
Family	£10.25	£10.55
Lone parent	£5.20	£5.20
Pensioner		
single	£18.60	£19.15
couple	£28.05	£28.90
Pensioner (enhanced)		
single	£20.70	£21.30
couple	£30.95	£31.90
Pensioner (higher)		
single	£25.15	£25.90
couple	£36.95	£37.05
Disability		
single	£19.80	£20.40
couple	£28.30	£29.15
Severe disability		
single	£35.05	£36.40
couple (one qualifies)	£35.05	£36.40
couple (both qualify)	£70.10	£72.80
Disabled child	£19.80	£20.40

	1995/96	1996/97
Carer	£12.60	£13.00
Maximum amounts for accommodation and meals in residential care homes		
Old age	£197.00	£203.00
Very dependent elderly	£227.00	£234.00
Mental disorder (not handicap)	£207.00	£214.00
Drug/alchohol dependence	£207.00	£214.00
Mental handicap	£237.00	£244.00
Physical disablement		
Under pension age	£267.00	£276.00
Over pension age	£197.00	£203.00
Widows pension		
higher rate	£58.85	£61.15
lower rate	£17.66	£18.35
18 and over, or under 18 with dependants		
100%	£95.30	£99.00
	£35.25	£36.60
Lower rate	£45.55	£47.35
Higher rate	£52.50	£54.55
	£6.30	£6.30
Earnings threshold	£58.00	£61.00
Standard rate	£52.50	£54.55
Over pension age	£58.85	£61.15
Under pension age	£46.45	£48.25

BT chief to take over at Energis

BY ERIC REGULY

ENERGIS, the loss-making telecommunications company that is owned by the National Grid, has hired a BT veteran with international experience to help it to find a partner for strategic alliances.

Mike Grabiner, 45, BT's director of European operations, is to become chief executive in January. He replaces David Dey, who left Energis in July after differences with Gordon Owen, the chairman.

Mr Grabiner has spent most of his career at BT and has been looking for the opportunity to run a telecoms company.

His departure is said to have nothing to do with BT's recent management overhaul, which sees the departure of Michael Hepher, the managing director, and the appointment of Peter Bonfield as chief executive.

Mr Grabiner's background should help Energis, which has lost more than £100 million since its launch a couple of years ago, get back on its feet. He has been responsible for BT's European expansion, including its partnership with Viag, the Bavarian industrial group.

Waddington beats costs to rise 16%

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

STRONG growth in pharmaceutical packaging helped John Waddington, the packaging group that sold its games division to Hasbro for £50 million a year ago, to overcome higher raw-material costs with a 15.9 per cent rise in first-half profits.

Organic growth and better margins fuelled a rise in pre-tax profits to £11.5 million in the half year to September 30 (£9.9 million). Turnover, boosted by acquisitions, expanded 17.3 per cent to £144 million. Underlyng organic growth, excluding acquisitions and divestments, saw operating profit rise 13.4 per cent and sales 16.2 per cent.

Direct marketing was a star performer, with profits up 120 per cent to £3.3 million, while the fast-growing pharmaceutical packaging operation saw profits double to £2.2 million as margins improved to 21.8 per cent (18 per cent).

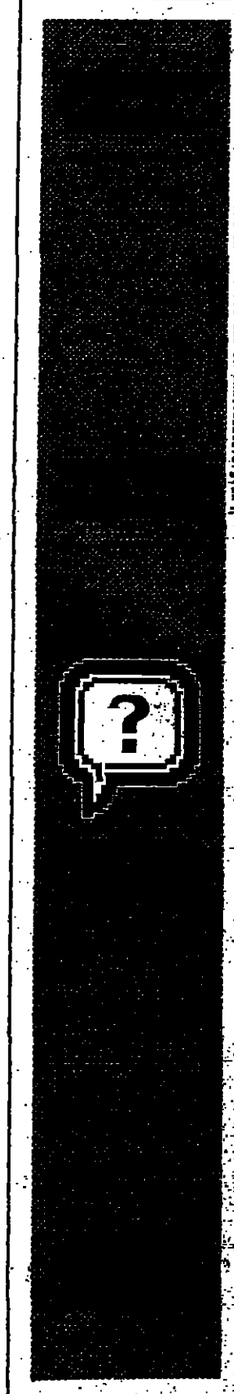
Waddington's US food-services operation, which is the main contributor to the core plastic-packaging operation, benefited from a recovery of substantial increases in raw material costs which have hit the industry in the past year.

However, the group was adversly affected by a disappointing performance in plastic packaging for the food and drink sector, with operating losses rising to £1.4 million (£300,000 loss). The losses were entirely due to Plastona in the UK, with the group "actively reviewing" several options. The cost base has been cut by £1 million, but the container market suffered a further deterioration in demand in the second quarter.

The paper and board packaging division increased sales to £41.8 million (£24.2 million) and operating profits 56.9 per cent to £3.8 million, in spite of the hot summer reducing demand for confectionery products and prepared meals.

Martin Buckley, chief executive, expects an improvement in performance in the second half, partly helped by seasonal demand for cartons and reduced volatility in raw material costs.

There is an interim dividend of 4p (3.8p), payable on January 18, from earnings ahead to 7.9p (7.88p) a share. The shares eased 3p to 219p.



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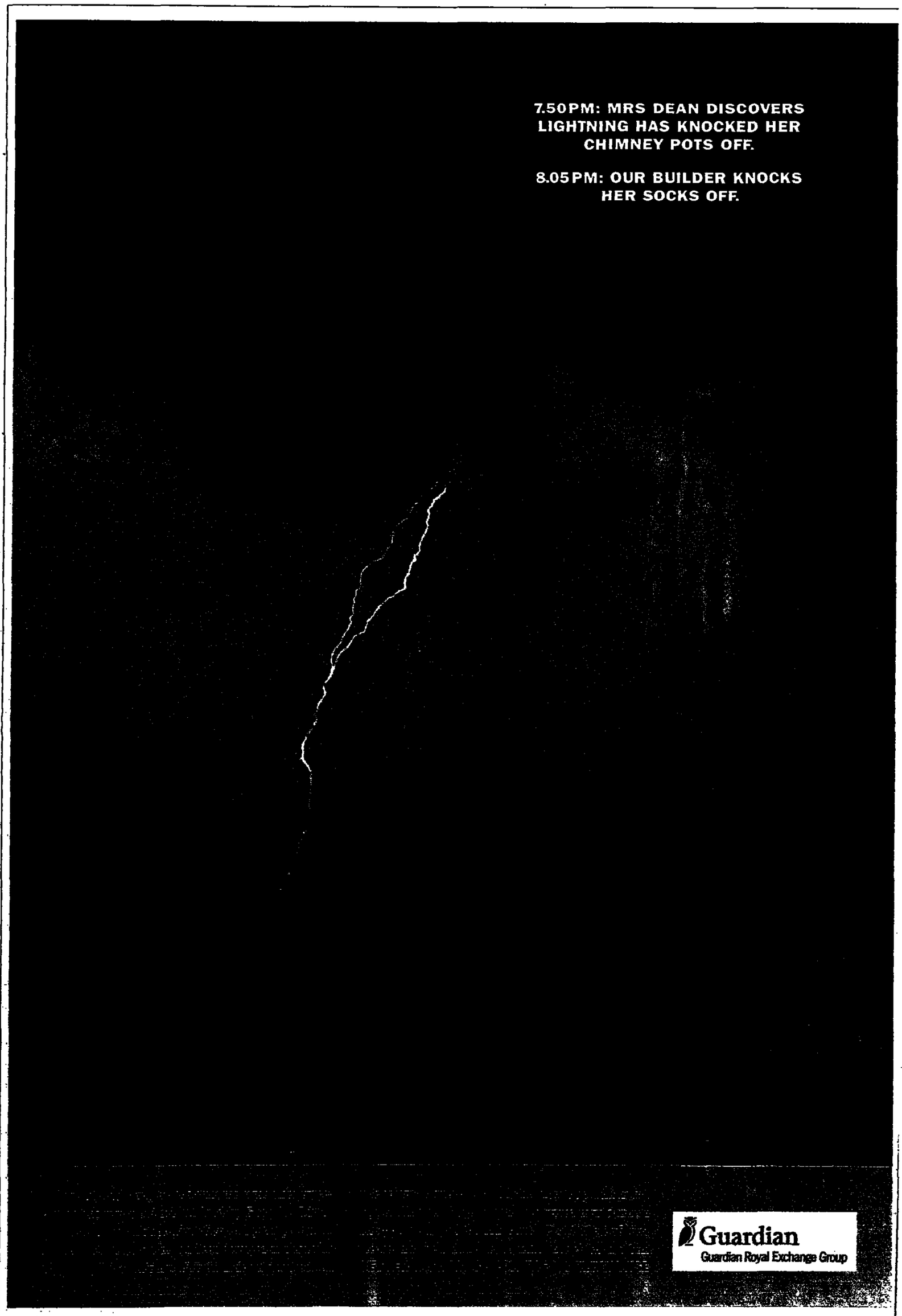
Half-year turnround for Bandt

BY MARTIN BARROW

BANDT, the industrial products and services company formerly known as Brown & Tawse, returned to profit in the half-year to October 1, earning £1 million before tax compared with losses of £1.2 million previously. The results are the first to benefit from the restructuring of the company after the £32.3 million purchase of Kwikform UK, GKN's scaffolding business, in July.

Earnings were 1.2p a share, compared with losses of 3.7p. There is again no interim dividend, although the board expects to recommend a final dividend in respect of the current financial year. The shares rose 1p to 37p yesterday.

Don McFarlane, chairman, said: "Conditions in the construction industry remain difficult, but with a much broader and firmer base to work from we are confident that the structure we have put in place will enable us to make further progress." Kwikform, which forms the new contracting and hire division, contributed profits of £1.6 million on sales of £15.6 million in the three months since it was acquired. The stockholding and distribution division earned £300,000, compared with a loss of £600,000.



THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 256 783				
Gryphond Smlr	197.40	208.90†	+ 3.90	0.17
Gryphond Equity	372.20	389.60	+ 1.70	2.01
Gryphond Euro	240.40	254.40	+ 2.30	1.00
Gryphond Brit Bal	124.40	128.80	...	8.00
Gryphond Gilt	76.20	78.63	– 0.76	5.12
Gryphond Japan	169.40	179.20†	+ 1.60	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	617.40	656.90	+ 3.60	2.58
General Inc	530.60	564.30	+ 2.60	2.58
UK Growth Acc	418.10	444.80†	+ 2.00	2.79
UK Growth Inc	378.50	396.30†	+ 1.40	2.79
Higher Inc Acc	770.20	819.40†	+ 6.00	4.06
Higher Inc Inc	428.60	456.00†	+ 3.40	4.06
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	295.30	316.80	+ 0.40	5.56
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	94.30	98.50	+ 0.15	5.56
Nth America	334.00	355.40†	+ 3.60	0.98
Europe	317.90	338.20	+ 2.40	0.81
Ent Equity	83.61	88.95†	– 0.47	2.89
Ent Fixd Inc Acc	112.00	119.20	+ 1.00	4.68
Ent Fixd Inc Inc	78.40	83.45	+ 0.68	4.68
Global Oppor	94.60	100.60†	+ 0.75	0.55
Balanced Acc	180.34	64.30†	+ 0.25	2.03
Balanced Inc	57.74	61.43†	+ 0.32	2.83
Japan Acc	45.40	48.30	– 0.66	...
Pac Basin Acc	374.30	398.20†	+ 4.00	1.04
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilt: A Fixed Int	132.90	140.70	– 0.50	7.11
High Inc Equity	176.10	186.30†	+ 0.40	4.18
Worldwide Bond	292.30	310.00†	+ 4.10	4.52
Capital Growth				
American Growth	338.40	361.90	+ 9.70	0.36
Asian Pacific	304.60	325.70	+ 3.60	
Access & Earnings	298.10	306.50†	+ 0.50	2.63
Convrtn & Fxd Int	112.30	120.10	+ 1.40	0.11
Euro Capital Inc	150.60	161.30	+ 1.80	0.69
–do- Accum	161.80	173.00	+ 1.90	0.60
General	283.10	279.90	+ 0.30	2.56
Japan	119.90	128.20	+ 0.80	
Mastertrust	151.60	162.10	+ 0.80	1.46
UC Emerging Cos	175.30	186.50	+ 4.50	...
Ethical	74.32	79.08	+ 0.36	2.48
International	124.80	132.50†	+ 1.30	0.61
Dividend & Growth	69.20	73.52	+ 0.16	2.98
Global Earth & Soc	70.21	75.00	– 0.07	2.89
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1964.00	2041.00		
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 1626 360				
Amer Inc & Growth	54.64	56.74†	+ 0.94	0.54
Cash	50.56	50.56		5.78
Emerging Mkts	63.07	66.64	– 0.07	0.05
European	130.80	138.00	+ 1.30	
Exempt	10.24.40	1099.60†	+ 0.30	1.70
Extra Income #	49.05	52.57	+ 0.09	6.47
Far East Emg Eqty	116.40	122.20	– 0.60	0.51
Fixed Interest #	23.50	24.44†	– 0.03	9.61
Pens Inv Tst	164.80	173.30	+ 1.40	8.96
Japan	181.30	188.60	+ 0.50	
Latin American	46.05	48.30	+ 0.33	1.01
Pacific	78.56	82.49	+ 0.54	0.32
Progress Shars	61.87	64.94	+ 0.29	7.70
UK Emerging Cos	69.31	73.21	+ 0.03	0.89
UK Growth	49.12	51.56†	+ 0.16	2.26
Abtrust World Port #	77.35	79.30†	+ 0.41	2.07
Ethical	73.05	76.94	+ 0.41	2.35
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	51.23	51.23	+ 0.04	7.33
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 549 3232				
Select Portfolio	95.36	101.46†	+ 0.62	
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				
Assets Property	97.50	104.00		5.38
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Annty Income	82.14	87.15	+ 0.26	2.35
Income Builder Inc	76.74	81.64	+ 0.51	3.86
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
JFA dly 01793 610 366 Client dly: 01793 514 514				
Balanced Income				
Growth & Income	256.60	270.40	+ 0.10	2.82
Capital	457.50	486.00	– 0.40	1.63
Balanced	762.20	814.70	+ 0.20	2.44
Accumulator	1436.00	1535.00†	+ 3.00	2.64
Income Trusts				
American Income	56.44	60.33	+ 0.66	2.95
High Income	425.10	454.40	+ 0.20	3.40
Equity Income	259.30	265.70	+ 0.40	3.26
High Yield	257.70	275.40†	+ 0.10	3.16
Govt Securities	34.40	36.31†	+ 0.01	5.84
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	186.70	199.50	+ 2.90	0.35
European Growth	43.02	45.62	+ 0.28	0.01
International	175.20	187.10	+ 1.20	0.18
Japan	194.80	207.30	+ 0.70	0.01
Pacific	388.00	413.60	+ 2.20	0.01
Spcs of America	539.90	564.80†	+ 8.90	0.41
Wrldwd Accm Val	52.02	55.60	+ 0.29	0.22
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	572.30	611.80†	+ 0.20	2.09
Cstrs & Gds	44.63	47.70	– 0.04	4.84
Smaller Cos	189.10	202.10†	– 0.20	1.10
2nd Smaller Cos	179.00	191.30	– 0.10	1.27
Recovery	150.90	161.30†		1.62
Nat Res & Eqty	170.30	182.00†	+ 1.20	0.65
Assoc Earnings	333.60	310.00	+ 0.60	1.64
Technology	215.30	230.10†	+ 5.80	0.01
Ur Selected Sec	512.20	554.20†	– 1.60	1.65
B & G E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
01250 526 911				
Cautious Gur Fnd	102.93	110.20		3.04
Founders Pacific Fund	64.93	67.45		1.54
BAI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 580 0033				
Cautious	77.33	82.37	– 1.09	1.77
International	67.33	71.63	– 1.83	
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
0131 225 4242				
America	210.00	311.20	+ 4.50	
Bond	119.70	125.90†	– 1.60	6.64
Ind Smlr Cos	110.90	117.90	– 0.20	1.69
Cstrs & Gds #	68.80	73.19	– 0.05	5.37
Europe	256.80	251.90†	+ 2.70	0.62
Euro Smlr Cos	105.80	114.00†	+ 1.40	0.62
Income Gwth	377.40	401.50†	+ 1.20	3.82
Japan	317.20	338.00	+ 2.00	
Latin American	66.14	70.36	– 0.34	
Pacific	104.70	111.40	– 1.10	1.26
Uk Smlr Cos	56.46	60.19	– 0.11	1.29
Japan Fd	662.90	663.70	– 5.00	
Mngd Fd	190.40	202.30†	+ 0.90	2.95
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
0171 488 8673				
Ent & Growth	333.20	350.60		0.82
Capital Gwth	130.40	136.80		2.59
World Opps	200.90	214.70		0.95
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
0181 534 5644				
Balanced Trusts				
Bal Inv Fd Inc	387.30	403.40†	+ 0.50	2.67
European Bd Inc	95.87	99.27	+ 0.27	6.85
Exempt	77.59	82.76†	+ 0.11	4.05
Financial	91.99	98.39†	+ 0.39	2.46
500	468.60	497.70	+ 0.30	2.63
General	296.80	317.60	+ 0.50	2.54
Property	230.50	253.70†		3.95
Trustee	209.40	223.30		3.25
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.70	100.70		6.03
Exot Income #	127.70	130.50†	+ 0.20	4.82
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.30	60.34†	– 0.25	8.24
Income	566.00	605.30	+ 1.10	3.79
Income Builder #	66.85	71.31	+ 0.16	5.49
Int Income	68.17	72.52	+ 0.65	3.19
Growth Trusts - Uk				
Capital	131.80	140.60	+ 0.30	2.73
Leisure	149.40	159.80	– 0.10	1.10
Recovery	445.30	476.30	– 1.20	2.79
Smlr Cos Inc	48.25	51.74	– 0.06	2.15
Special Sits	335.60	359.00	+ 1.00	1.53
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	159.80	170.00†	+ 3.10	0.30
Asst Acc	368.10	386.80	+ 5.40	1.05
Asst Inc	163.50	174.80	+ 2.30	1.95
Euro Gwth Inc	167.60	177.90	+ 2.70	0.73
–do- Accum	181.80	192.10	+ 2.40	0.73
Japan & Gen Inc	160.60	170.10	+ 1.20	
–do- Accum	162.50	172.00	+ 1.30	
Pac Basin Spec Sits	73.83	78.27	+ 0.62	
Uam Tech Inc	97.09	97.15	– 1.43	
Worldwide	183.10	194.40	+ 2.20	0.64
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
0171 214 1004				
American Growth	115.80	122.50	– 2.40	
Amer Smlr Cos	151.60	160.10	+ 2.80	
Convertibles	55.07	59.05	+ 0.14	5.70
Eastern	276.40	293.60	+ 0.70	0.30
Equity Income	88.34	94.64†	– 0.16	4.10
European Growth	330.30	350.30	+ 1.80	0.80
Europe	274.10	290.80	– 3.90	0.26
German Growth	80.70	85.60	+ 0.55	0.50
Global Bond	69.19	72.89	+ 0.16	6.50
Global Growth	139.20	148.10†	– 1.20	
Japan Growth	199.80	212.40	– 0.30	
Japan Smlr Cos	152.80	160.40	+ 0.50	
Latest Trust	77.84	84.70	+ 0.20	
Portfolio	138.20	147.70	+ 0.70	2.30
–do- Accum	257.40	275.10	+ 1.20	2.30
UK Growth	87.85	94.05	+ 0.16	2.70
Uk Smaller Cos	83.66	91.20†	+ 0.17	2.50
Select Managers	81.21	86.96	+ 0.30	1.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 250 3000				
Intl Credit Port Inc	84.17	89.54		
Special Oppor Inc	57.58	61.25		
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0141 223 6020				
Balanced Growth	123.16	130.33†	+ 0.14	1.54
–do- Accm	140.92	149.13	– 0.16	1.54
Smaller Cos	132.68	129.30†	– 0.24	0.79
Higher Yield #	50.71	53.69†		4.50
American Gth Inc	84.15	89.04	+ 2.43	
Eurosystem Growth	149.65	158.36	+ 2.43	0.62
–do- Accum	152.60	161.48	+ 2.48	0.62
Global Bond Inc #	32.43	34.44†	+ 0.12	7.17
Mngd Philio Inc	46.47	49.16	+ 0.56	1.46
–do- Accum	47.66	50.42	+ 0.56	1.46
Int Spec Opps	134.38	142.09	+ 2.29	
Pacific Gth	129.28	136.69	+ 0.98	0.38
UK General #	85.28	90.24	+ 0.28	3.17
–do- Accum #	86.83	94.00	– 0.29	3.17
Japan	58.51	61.92	+ 0.43	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	100.59	104.24†	+ 0.47	8.59
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 480 7216				
Shrd Dalind Swr	67.30	68.24	– 0.14	6.22
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
0161 837 5050				
Environ	170.40	181.30	+ 1.00	1.73
Uk Growth	198.50	202.70	– 0.60	2.09
Uk Income	141.80	150.90†	+ 0.60	4.29
CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD				
01767 822 100				
Can Gen Dpt	213.90	228.90	+ 0.90	1.73
–do- Income Dist	116.10	123.10†	– 0.30	4.06
–do- Accum	368.50	387.40	+ 1.10	4.08
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.89	44.51	– 0.03	6.11
Growth Units	230.40	246.40	+ 0.20	2.03
Bond	176.80	186.10	+ 0.40	8.24
Intl Growth	231.30	245.90	+ 3.30	0.30
North American	229.80	244.70	+ 2.50	0.27
Far East	286.00	305.90	+ 5.50	1.10
Uk Smaller Cos	194.50	206.10	+ 1.20	1.85
European	90.38	96.07	– 1.17	0.65
Japanese Growth	47.02	49.91	+ 0.46	
High Income	205.20	219.50	+ 0.50	3.99
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
0161 831 7433 Exq 0161 831 7439 Dlg 0161 831 7455				
American & Gen	197.40	199.40	– 2.50	
European Inc	87.41	92.63	– 0.90	1.13
Smaller Cos (4-11	91.85	97.72		1.53
Growth	483.50	514.40	– 0.40	1.65
Income & Growth #	441.20	469.50	+ 0.80	3.83
–do- Accum #	642.70	683.80	+ 1.20	3.85
Japan & Gen	68.41	72.83	– 0.36	
Managed Portfolio	1110.99	1114.67†	– 30.00	2.26
–do- Accum	1134.60	1129.06	– 49.00	2.26
Special Sits	113.40	120.70	– 0.70	1.90
High Yield	114.16	114.60†	– 5.00	4.29
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	92.91	98.20		2.58
American Portfolio	106.93	116.58	...	0.05
European Portfolio	110.64	118.04		0.49
High Income	91.83	52.011		8.00
Japanese Portfolio	66.35	70.58	+ 0.43	
Pacific Portfolio	142.71	153.46	+ 1.67	1.47
UK Inc & Growth	85.76	91.82		3.04
Units & Bonds	57.53	58.221		6.57
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 898 1815				
Inv Fund	739.53	739.56	+ 3.75	4.30
Fxd Int Sec	159.86	169.23	+ 2.21	6.98
CDF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	714.18	754.98	+ 9.11	4.40
Investment Acc	531.45	531.50	+40.43	
Fixed Int Inc	127.56	126.10	+ 1.06	6.98
Fixed Int Acc	212.29	213.15	+ 1.78	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5965				
Beckman Ltd	90.75	95.80†	+ 1.29	3.10
Beck Ben-Tech	37.27	40.20	...	
Acorn Ethical Tst	161.86	169.97		0.73
City Fin Assets	74.58	78.29†		2.08
City Fin America	103.52	108.70	+ 4.00	
City Fin Int	86.73	91.06†	+ 2.00	0.50
City Fin Japan	148.60	155.94	+ 3.78	
Finsec Hse Cap	286.30	309.75		2.35
Finsec Hse Inc	193.50	209.72†		4.54
Buckley Shrd Gth	134.92	143.01	+ 1.10	
Fairmont Cap Gth	140.77	148.18†		
Fairmount Intl	148.18	155.98†		1.96
J Sol Inc/Gth Inc	56.79	59.63		
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	54.01	57.31	+ 0.06	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	75.70	80.95	+ 1.07	
Dragon Growth	68.73	71.36	+ 0.56	1.01
Equity High Inc	88.88	94.28	+ 0.44	4.06
–do- Accum	122.29	130.59	+ 0.60	1.46
Extra Income Inc	35.99	38.10	– 0.06	7.30
Extra Income Acc	37.77	39.54	– 0.08	7.30
European Gwth	57.73	61.42	+ 0.54	1.13
Evergreen	28.30	30.26	+ 0.12	
General Equity	94.95	100.32	+ 0.84	2.90
Japan Growth	49.99	53.46	+ 0.07	
Pedigree Gwth	96.78	98.95	+ 0.27	2.79
Prd Sm Cos Inc	33.08	35.11†		1.58
Prd Sm Cos Acc	34.75	36.97		1.58
Retirement Inc #	27.75	29.99	+ 0.16	5.80
Special Sits	42.75	45.48	– 0.01	2.10
UK & Overseas	54.54	58.02	+ 0.48	0.81
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Capital	75.22	79.24	+ 0.30	1.94
Balanced	85.64	88.27	+ 0.16	4.12
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRS:1063 PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	171.21	182.14	+ 1.13	4.60
Fixed & Convertible	40.88	43.49	– 0.10	8.68
Monthly Inc Pfnc	48.36	52.51	+ 0.24	8.52
Preference Shares	48.61	49.58	+ 0.20	7.86
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	139.63	137.90	+ 1.06	5.89
Managed Fund	73.17	77.84	+ 0.36	3.02
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	42.95	45.59	+ 0.16	1.78
–do- Accum	49.88	53.06	+ 0.19	1.78
UK & General	68.30	93.94	+ 0.28	2.72
–do- Accum	113.85	120.56	+ 0.46	2.72
UK Growth	165.15	175.69	+ 0.86	2.39
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	200.51	213.31	+ 1.59	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	129.81	137.03	+ 0.89	
Global Bond	84.41	89.85	+ 0.64	5.90
Japan Growth	115.58	122.96	– 0.02	
North Amer Gth	208.12	221.40	+ 2.67	
Overall Growth	77.57	82.53	+ 0.76	0.07
Worldwide Growth	79.97	75.18	+ 0.51	0.11
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PFI FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.12	92.12	+ 0.02	6.11
Homemakers Fund	98.27	91.76	+ 0.31	1.65
Quarter Fund	144.39	153.61	+ 0.56	1.98
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0177 407 5965				
Consistent Ut	33.97	35.29		3.37
COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD				
0800 525 358				
Growth	170.20	181.10†	+ 0.70	1.67
Income	71.33	75.88	+ 0.01	5.62
European	65.61	70.01	– 0.54	1.03
Recovery	168.40	179.30	+ 0.10	2.16
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 263 9494				
Equity Fnd	682.60	696.60†		3.58
CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 690 370				
Fellcare Gilt Fd	91.82	97.88	+ 0.18	1.53
Income #	384.60	391.60†	+ 1.30	4.25
–do- Accum #	578.90	725.20†	+ 1.90	4.25
Smaller Cos	194.80	207.20	+ 0.30	1.00
–do- Accum	239.30	255.10	+ 0.50	1.00
Inv Equity	85.33	95.03	+ 0.13	1.57
Asia Inc Fund #	77.75	82.71	+ 0.36	4.31
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 419 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1547.70	1600.20†		
Japan Small Cos	1121.80	1144.20†		
UK Small Cos	1917.30	1998.20		
US Small Cos	1273.40	1913.30†		
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Exec Inc	218.93	230.50		2.93
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01731 315 2500				
European Gth	297.80	314.80		0.67
New Asia	212.20	226.20		0.25
Japan Growth	107.60	114.50		
Jap Smlr Cos	426.40	461.70		
Nth Amy	233.90	256.50		0.81
Uk Inc & Grth	230.40	245.20†		2.88
EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD				
01242 577 555				
Uk Balanced Inc	156.30	166.30	+ 0.10	1.61
Uk High Inc Inc	161.90	174.30†	+ 0.10	4.15
–do- Accum	247.30	231.10†	+ 0.30	4.13
Uk Prof & Fl Inc	60.43	64.09	– 0.27	4.89
Environmtl Opps	92.72	98.63	– 0.28	0.95
Uk Smlr Cos #	60.61	64.47	+ 0.03	0.01
Extra Income Inc	48.65	51.63	– 0.18	7.80
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
American	152.90	162.30†	+ 2.30	1.06
Convertibles #	21.61	23.06	+ 0.12	6.10
Equity Income #	136.60	145.10	+ 0.80	3.65
EuroFund	52.91	56.05	– 0.80	0.36
Financial	49.67	52.77	– 0.46	1.42
Growth & Inc #	266.00	282.60	+ 0.70	2.72
High Dist #	169.30	179.90†	+ 0.40	4.17
International	405.50	430.80	+ 3.60	0.12
Int Cap Inc	98.68	105.30†	+ 1.30	2.61
Latin American	34.72	36.26	+ 0.30	
Pacific	79.44	84.40	– 1.26	
Prof High Inc	21.93	23.30†	+ 0.15	7.08
Tokyo	222.00	235.70	+ 0.10	
Uk Smaller Cos	251.50	267.20	– 0.30	1.03
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
BRI Director Dlgs	98.69	105.10	+ 1.12	1.57
Growth Acc	236.05	254.22	+ 6.27	0.56
Income	553.03	619.51	+ 9.85	5.23
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	212.30	225.70		1.22
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	96.05	90.58	+ 0.63	1.99
Ethical Tst	49.34	48.26	+ 0.04	1.30
Far Eastern	296.08	311.66	– 2.25	1.89
High Income	135.62	142.76†	+ 0.53	4.77
Intl Growth	123.03	129.51	+ 0.79	0.46
North American	135.05	142.16	+ 2.00	1.48
Pension	129.46	136.27	+ 0.40	3.27
Smaller Cos	87.43	70.98	– 0.05	0.89
Special Sits	98.49	93.15	– 0.04	3.19
Tst of Inv Trsts	194.20	204.42	– 0.23	1.38
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	197.26	208.98†	+ 0.97	1.34
Smaller Cos Acc	349.15	371.44†	+ 1.71	1.34
Recovery	49.49	52.56†	+ 0.24	1.53
Recovery Acc	50.57	53.80†	+ 0.24	1.53
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Capital Growth	98.21	94.59†	+ 0.02	
Fd of Inv Trsts	47.82	51.01		0.57
High Income #	41.16	44.11†	+ 0.07	10.43
Recovt	51.76	56.26	+ 0.11	
Zero Preference	41.82	44.48	– 0.01	
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Asset Tst	81.71	86.92†	– 0.03	3.29
Family Income Tst	45.31	45.31	+ 0.369	8.80
Family Fund	90.44	96.21†	– 0.27	3.32
United Charities	363.60	380.40†	+ 1.000	5.02
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Cashline, Private Clients: 0800 414 161				
Cash Fund				
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.20
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	38.17	38.25†	+ 0.01	7.07
Intl Bond	30.34	31.49†	+ 0.25	5.33
Income Funds				
High Income	25.54	26.83	+ 0.05	5.38
Income Plus	121.80	129.30	+ 0.90	4.09
Amer Eq Inc	56.94	60.30†	+ 0.27	1.47
European Income	45.35	48.17	+ 0.45	2.38
Far East Inc	65.49	69.57†	+ 0.36	2.37
Global Convertible	24.54	26.05	+ 0.14	5.88
Uk Inc Gth	27.81	29.58	+ 0.10	2.19
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	68.15	64.17	+ 0.66	
American	300.00	317.90†	+ 5.00	
Amer Spec Sits	162.50	173.40	+ 4.30	
Japan Smaller Cos	35.21	37.56	+ 0.21	
European	197.40	209.90	+ 2.20	0.65
European Opps	70.25	74.70	+ 0.63	0.15
Global Prov	27.66	29.31	+ 0.25	0.78
Uk Growth	105.30	113.10	+ 0.49	1.26
Growth & Inc	159.30	169.30	+ 0.69	2.76
Int PEP	92.65	45.35	+ 0.37	1.07
Japan Spec Sits	86.84	91.61	+ 0.44	
Japan	182.40	194.00	+ 0.70	
Managed Intl	321.00	341.20	+ 4.00	0.44
Moneyfunder	59.32	63.08	+ 0.56	
Recovery	56.19	53.37	– 0.22	1.45
South E Asia	164.60	175.60	+ 1.50	1.11
Special Sits	298.30	834.10	+ 2.20	0.73
Specialist Funds				
Cash Access Units	111.98	111.98	+ 0.01	6.20
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	142.10	144.80	+ 2.00	2.08
Inc Philio #	88.43	90.59†	+ 0.30	3.29
Cap Philio	153.10	155.50	+ 0.70	7.46
General Opps	133.10	134.70†	– 1.30	3.45
Growth Inc	33.87	34.57†	– 0.15	1.36
Private Portfolio	452.10	460.90	+ 8.90	1.85
FOREIGN & COLONIAL UNIT MGT				
Enq 0171 454 1434 Dlg 01277 284 010				
European	128.90	131.70	+ 0.50	0.60
Emrg Asian	149.30	156.70†	+ 1.70	
High Income	21.42	22.74	+ 0.04	9.88
Uk Growth	118.50	126.80	+ 0.40	2.43
Uk Income	107.80	115.10†	+ 0.40	4.25
US Smaller Cos	368.70	394.20†	+ 4.20	0.39
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5968				
-do- Inv Tst Inc	77.09	81.06	+ 0.01	4.12
Investment Trust	98.91	104.01	+ 0.05	
UK Smaller Cos	92.12	96.87	– 0.03	0.98
FRANKLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 725611				
American Growth	72.75	77.56	+ 1.44	...
–do- Accum	72.75	77.56	+ 1.44	...
Amer Smlr Cos	012.60	655.10	+ 6.50	...
–do- Accum	625.70	669.30	+ 6.60	...
Capital Tst	336.50	357.30	+ 0.70	1.37
–do- Accum	488.60	519.50	+ 0.70	1.37
Cont Smlr Cos	57.74	61.39	+ 0.26	0.82
–do- Accum	60.93	64.99	+ 0.27	0.82
Convertible	133.50	142.00	– 0.10	5.35
–do- Accum	275.40	292.90	– 0.10	5.35
Emerging Markets	62.66	66.94	+ 0.22	...
–do- Accum	62.77	67.01	+ 0.23	...
European	133.59	136.10†	+ 1.10	0.35
–do- Accum	135.10	143.10	+ 1.40	0.35
Extra Income	362.20	385.20	+ 1.80	3.85
–do- Accum	555.10	591.40	+ 2.40	3.85
Financial	145.90	158.50†	+ 0.90	0.06
–do- Accum	154.50	165.70†	+ 1.00	0.06
Gilt Trust	84.33	86.34†	– 0.07	6.20
–do- Accum	94.73	97.09

هكذا من الاصل



■ FILM 1

For *In the Bleak Midwinter* Kenneth Branagh turns to manic comedy cocooned in famous luvvies



■ FILM 2

Tough prison drama as a man fights for justice in *Murder in the First*

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ FILM 3

Two seasonal cheers only for Disney's Christmas epic, *The Santa Clause*



■ FILM 4

. . . but *Sister My Sister*, a tale of murder and repressed passion, is not one for the kids

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** cringes at the rampant luvviedom of Branagh's latest; plus the rest of the week's releases

Ken's goose is cooked by a festive turkey



Richard Briers and John Sessions in *In the Bleak Midwinter*, "a film pitched at such a madcap level that any potential is drowned in artifice"

Each year brings a new film from Kenneth Branagh, and each year a new style. The opening credits to **In the Bleak Midwinter** ape Woody Allen: white lettering on black, matched to a chirpy popular song; an ensemble cast, listed in alphabetical order. Then whoosh, we're away, pitched into a manic showbiz comedy with a few pauses for tears, shot in black-and-white — a colour scheme made newly fashionable for comedies by guess who? Woody Allen.

Not that the film is entirely impersonal. Both offscreen and on, Branagh likes to wrap himself in camaraderie, from the Shakespearean troupes of *Henry V* and *Much Ado* to the university chums who people *Peter's Friends*. That comedy is this film's nearest equivalent: they share the same garrulity, a similar low budget, the same shallow treatment of serious matters. But *Midwinter*, written as well as directed by Branagh, is much more cocooned with luvvies than most.

The characters are actors — struggling youngsters, has-beens, eccentrics — rehearsing a dismal production of *Hamlet* in dismal surroundings: a rural church due for closure, days before Christmas. The situation should prompt sharp comic insights, given Branagh's knowledge of *Hamlet* and the actor's life. But the film is pitched at such a madcap level that any potential is drowned in artifice.

The implausibilities start right away. What professional actor, however desperate, would expect to get customers for a village church *Hamlet* on Christmas Eve? And what high-powered agent (played, to boot, by Joan Collins) would ever sanction the folly? Having swallowed those whoppers, you must then contend with a noisy bunch of theatrical types concocted to extract easy laughs. There is the camp pantomime dame roped in to play Gertrude; an Ophelia blind without her specs; a lugubrious drunk; and, lording over the mayhem, a hyperactive producer played by Michael Malone. You may laugh at them at first; then you sigh, then you cringe.

Visually, the film could not be further from the fidgety extravagance of *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*. The camera appears nailed to the floor, watching helpless as the characters pace and gibber. Every effect, comic or serious, is whacked home as though we were blind and deaf. There is no gain from Roger Lanser's monochrome photography, apart from the irrelevant beauty of a phone box at night.

No gain, either, from the lurches into sentimentality as the squabbling actors learn how to hug and resolve little family problems. This might be Branagh's most aggravating film yet.

At the beginning of **Murder in the First**, Kevin Bacon squats in an Alcatraz dungeon, naked, screaming, more animal than human, bereft of light and air. Emerging three years later in 1941, he stabs the prisoner responsible for his ordeal. Originally imprisoned for stealing $5, Bacon now faces a fresh charge: murder in the first degree.

The outlook looks grim, but Christian Slater's public defender will not give in. Glasses in place, brow nicely furrowed, he puts Alcatraz in the dock in the person of Gary Oldman's Warden, a man who probably takes sadistic pleasure in peeling a grape.

This is not the kind of film where you are unsure whom to root for. But there is little time to get bored by this true-life stampede against injustice. Bacon's carefully controlled performance grips like a vice. The screaming beast becomes a limping, taciturn wreck whose mental scars never obscure the man's basic dignity. We give him our sympathy without ever having to be bullied. Slater, usually cast as a wild boy, tackles his unconventional part well, although the courtroom rhetoric eventually palls.

Unfortunately, Marc Rocco, the director, cannot quite trust his performers. Although the film is his fourth feature, he behaves as though it were his debut. He wants to be noticed. He wants razzle-dazzle; and since the story unfolds in confined spaces — cells, courtrooms — he puts all the dazzle into his camera. When not framing some image from a cockeyed position, the camera rushes, circles and swoops. Rocco's ostentation gives the film its dubious air of self-importance, and allows it to miss some of the humour tucked into the situations.

Still, enough intelligence remains to make *Murder in the First* absorbing viewing.

"Can we get a direct flight to reality, or do we have to change in Denver?" A fair question, since the speaker stands in a red suit and white beard, surrounded by elves at the North Pole. But, since **The Santa Clause** is a Disney family film, reality is way off the flight map. True, the main character is a divorced, frustrated dad. But the environment is the usual American dream: large houses festooned with lights, snow deep and crisp and even, families with money to burn.

To its credit, John Pasquin's film (America's box-office hit last Christmas) tries hard to satisfy both the wide-eyed child and the adult cynic. Television sitcom star Tim Allen finds a good vehicle for his low-key style as the toy company executive who puts on a Santa suit and cannot shake the character off. Special effects play their part: there are aerial trips with reindeer and magical descents down heating vents. The film is no classic, but at least it puts human beings in the foreground, not technology.

"We have two pearls on our hands, Isabelle, two pearls!" crows Julie Walters's Madame Danzard, a French provincial dragon who prides herself on the probity of her new maids. Their approval rating soon plummets: in **Sister My Sister**, based on the same 1930s murder case that inspired Genet's play *The Maids*, the sibling servants, Joely Richardson and Jodhi May, bottle up so many dangerous feelings that violence is the only outcome.

This is predominantly a story of ominous looks, dripping taps, and specks of dust on the stair banister. Its natural home is the theatre, where it lived under the title *My Sister in this House*. The film version of Wendy Kesselman's play uses camera close-ups to emphasise lesbian fondling, and presents the repressed lives upstairs and downstairs in cross-cut scenes. But there is little to suggest that the director Nancy Meckler, who also directed the London stage show, has any real flair for cinema.

Richardson and May work better when their emotions simmer, not boil, while Walters sometimes overplays. Once the film is done, nothing much remains in the mind, although scene by scene *Sister* is watchable enough.

This is more than can be said for **Elisa**, a dreary vehicle for Vanessa Paradis, the French pop singer turned actress, who parades her cheekbones and seraphic hair as though she were modelling perfume. The glossy image hardly helps her to convince as a tearaway teenager coping badly with the effects of a mother's suicide and a father's absence. Jean Becker's film is overwrought and improbable; and a late appearance by Gérard Depardieu and a phallic lighthouse do nothing to improve matters.

Meanwhile, over in Seattle and **Mad Love**, Paradis's fellow sexpot Drew Barrymore busily proclaims that she likes violence, noise, honesty and danger. This meets with Chris O'Donnell's approval; so when school and parents start to get tough, they take to the road. For Antonia Bird, the gutsy British director of *Priest*, the film proved an unhappy Hollywood baptism; but even without studio tinkering, one suspects *Mad Love* would still be bad. The script is the problem: bland, shallow, going nowhere. The author, alas, is another British export, television writer Paula Milne.

Meanwhile, among the week's bedlam, a chink of spurs can be heard as Henry Fonda ambles up to the OK Corral. He always walks slowly in **My Darling Clementine**; but then John Ford's western was made in 1946, when films could take time to establish characters, and allow any action to swirl naturally around them. This is an ageless film, poetic, beautiful, above all humane: the week's biggest treat.

In the Bleak Midwinter
Odeon Haymarket
15, 99 mins
Luvvie-strewn comedy from Kenneth Branagh

Murder in the First
Warner West End
15, 123 mins
Flashy, but absorbing Alcatraz drama

The Santa Clause
Odeon West End
U, 98 mins
Divorced dad becomes Santa

Sister My Sister
Warner West End
15, 89 mins
Chamber piece about murderous maids

Elisa
MGM Swiss Centre
15, 115 mins
Trials and tribulations of a French sexpot

Mad Love
Empire, 12, 97 mins
Runaway lovers running nowhere

My Darling Clementine
Renoir, U, 97 mins
John Ford's classic western

RADIO: **Peter Barnard** finds 1950s' drama still fresh

Films on the wireless

MOST drama output falls into two categories: contemporary (incomprehensible to anyone over 40) and classical (incomprehensible to anyone under 40). How good to see radio tackling a third category, the explosion of British domestic drama in the 1950s.

Nor is it doing so conventionally. Radio 4 is contributing to the 100th birthday of cinema by putting out films. If that sounds daft, I had better explain that these are films adapted for radio by the writer of the original screenplay.

The Monday Play is the flag under which these productions are sailing. This week we had Alan Sillitoe's *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*, excellently performed by a cast every bit as convincing as the stars of the 1960 film.

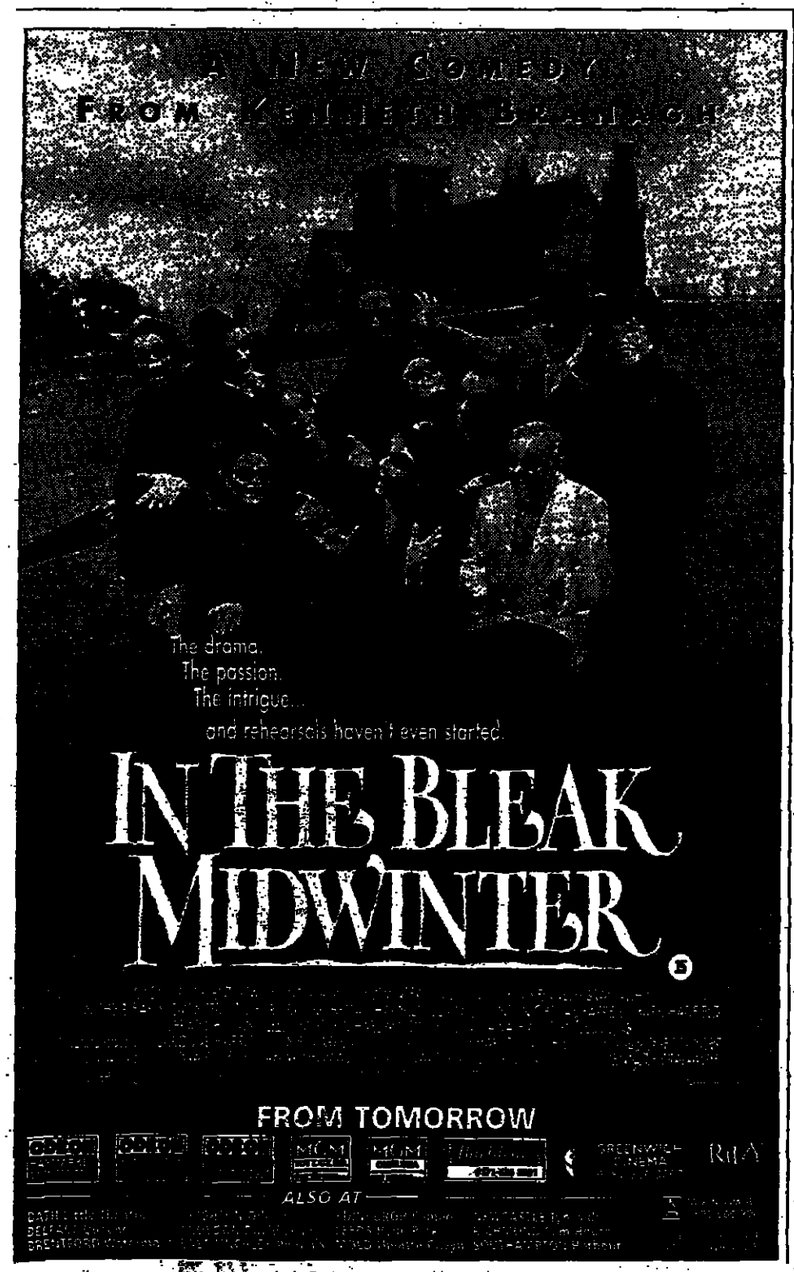
In fact, Sillitoe said before transmission that he had been none too sure about Albert Finney as Arthur Seaton in the film, meaning, I think, that Finney's technical brilliance may have softened the character.

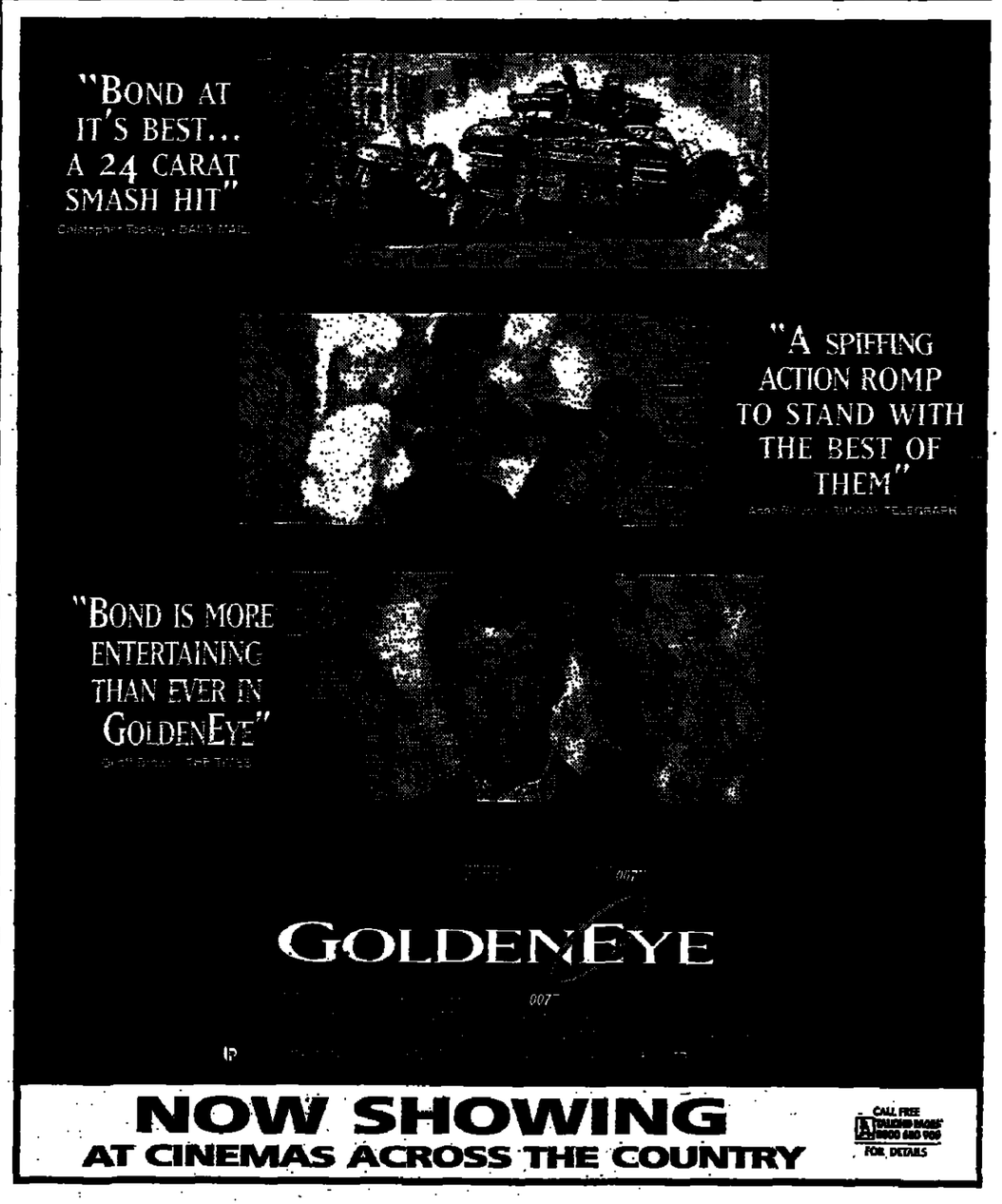
Jamie Glover as Seaton did not lack grit and his delivery mostly overcame the feeling that the slice-of-life intensity of the piece had been dulled since its first manifestation. "Dated" was what Sillitoe called it, but that was only true in relation to some of the themes. The dialogue, reflecting Sillitoe's ability to observe the commonplace, is still sharp.

The theme which "dates" the work is fear of pregnancy. Sillitoe explained that the censors had rejected the plot development in which Seaton's mistress attempts to abort a child. In the book, the attempt was successful; in the film, it failed.

This impertinent circumscribing of a writer's freedom took place at the dawn of the 1960s — before the Pill. Indeed *Saturday Night* probably looked more dated by 1970 than it does amid the greater moral awareness of the 1990s.

But how interesting that the censors decided that a woman consuming a bottle of gin in a scalding bath could be shown on screen provided the audience was not led to believe that it might work. Modern television does not know how lucky it is, but should perhaps be reminded before it takes one liberty too many.







CHOICE 1

Phyllida Lloyd's staging of *Hysteria* opens in the West End

VENUE: Tonight at the Duke of York's



CHOICE 2

Richard Todd turns mean to play Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*

VENUE: In preview at the Thorndike, Leatherhead

THE TIMES ARTS



DANCE

Perhaps you have to be a fan: as a dance-drama, *Momix*'s baseball tribute fails to make first base.



MUSIC

The conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen shows his mettle as a composer in a fine London Sinfonietta concert

LONDON

SOLTI CELEBRATES BARTOK: Maestro conducts maestro as Sir Georg leads the second of three London Symphony Orchestra concerts celebrating his compatriot, Bela Bartók. Another vigorously spirited performance can be expected, with pianist András Schiff one of the soloists for a programme of Piano Concerto No 2 and *Bluebeard's Castle*
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE ROAD BEYOND Mariss Jansons and the London Philharmonic Orchestra move the series of music commemorating the end of the Second World War back to London. Yesterday's Coventry performance of Honegger's Symphony No 3, Liturgique and Mahler's Symphony No 1 is repeated tonight; a separate programme is offered on Sunday
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight and Sun, 7.30pm

HYSTERIA Opening night for Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner Phyllida Lloyd directs Henry Goodman and Tim Potter as Freud and Salvador Dali, as part of the Royal Court Classics season.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Thurs, Sat, 3pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Music for the young at heart is on offer from Alexander Lazarev and the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**: Elgar's *Wand of Youth*, Suite No 2, Dohnányi's *Variations on a Nursery Song* and Stravinsky's *Petrushka* (rev 1947).
Royal Concert Hall, Buchanan Street (0141-227 5511) Tonight; rpt Fri in **Edinburgh**, Usher Hall (0131-228 1155). Both at 7.30pm.

LEATHERHEAD Scrooge is definitely the role of this year for early Christmas season entertainment, what with Anthony Newley in Birmingham (Alexandra), Clive Francis starting tomorrow in London (Barbican), and Richard Todd taking it on here in **A Christmas Carol**
Thorndike, Church Street (01372-377 677). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, check box office for mat and Sun schedule. Until Jan 6.

MANCHESTER. Music director Kent Nagano continues a season of star soloists for the **Hallé Orchestra**, with a guest appearance by pianist Alfred Brendel. Tonight's programme (with variations tomorrow in Sheffield) features works by Mozart, Schubert and Bruckner. Andrew Parrott brings the orchestra back to Manchester on Sunday for Handel's *Messiah*.
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street (0161-834 1712). **City Hall** (0114-272 2885). Both at 7.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Dora Carrington (0171-638 4141). **British Museum**: Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster (0171-638 1555). **Hayward**: Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144). **Llewellyn Alexander**: A Feast of Food (0171-xxx xxxx). **National Gallery**: Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885). **National Portrait Gallery**: Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055). **Royal Academy**: David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438). **Serpentine**: William Turnbull: sculpture and paintings (0171-723 9072). **Tate**: Picturing Blackness in British Art, Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England (0171-887 8000). **V & A**: Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **BALLAD OF WOLVES** The second of Ramon del Valle Inclan's Don Juan plays takes the aged hero back to the scene of his crimes. Eerie Spanish drama.
Gate, 11 Pembridge Road, W11 (0171-229 0706). Previews tonight and opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Until Dec 23.

◪ **CAIN.** Marcus D'Amico plays the tormented hero, with John Carlisle as Lucifer, in Lord Byron's seldom staged yet fascinating verse drama. John Barton directs.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Now previewing, tonight-Dec 5, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm. Opens Dec 6, 7pm.

☐ **HOBSON'S CHOICE.** Leo McKern in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. Nichola McAuliffe and Graham Turner excellent as daughter and son-in-law.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Ave, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 3pm

◪ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

◪ **KING LEAR:** Warren Mitchell in Jude Kelly's often unsatisfying production, shot through with flashes of brilliance. Final week.
Hackney Empire, Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sun, 6pm.

■ **KNIVES IN HENS.** Philip Howard's Traverse Theatre production of new David Harrower play: set in Scotland's distant past, "a powerful story of liberation through forbidden love".
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm

☐ **THE SIMPLETON OF THE UNEXPECTED ISLES** Written when Shaw was 78, and never publicly performed in London. Kate O'Mara and Raad Rawi play Priestess and Priest of a perfect society, just as an angel announces the Day of Judgement. Sam Walters directs a true rarity.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Dec 4; until Jan 27

◪ **MACK AND MABEL:** Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Starring Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **TAKING SIDES** Enthralling drama by Ronald Harwood, based on the investigations of conductor Furtwängler's alleged Nazi sympathies. Superb performances by Daniel Massey and Michael Pennington.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, WC2 (0171-369 1747). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

◪ **WILD OATS** Anton Lesser as Rover, the touring actor whose talk is a patchwork of the roles he has played. Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keefe's 1791 farce. With Alan Cox, James Bolam and Andrew Sachs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 22523). Tonight, 7.30pm.

☐ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS:** Jeremy Sinden plays Toad in the new annual return of the National Theatre production, Jeremy Sams directs.
Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (0171-928 6555). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, mats daily week of Dec 26.

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

L'AVVENTURA (PG) Monica Vitti lights up the screen as the forlorn, questing heroine of Antonioni's 1960 classic. A welcome revival
Screen/Hill (0171-435 3366)

THE BASKETBALL DIARIES (18): Leonardo DiCaprio descends into heroin's hell. Scott Kalvert directs unedifying version of Jim Carroll's book.
Cleph... **Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

CARLOTA JOAQUINA, PRINCESS OF BRAZIL (15). Gauche and eccentric historical romp about the rulers of 18th-century Brazil. Director, Carla Camurah
Barbican (0171-638 8891)

A FISTFUL OF FINGERS (15) Juvenile Western spoof filmed in Somerset, it should have lasted 20 minutes. Director, Edgar Wright.
Prince Charles (0171-437 8181)

◆ **GOLDENEYE:** (12)· Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean. Director, Martin Campbell.
Barbican (0171-638 8891); **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772); **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636); **Notting Hill Coronet** (0171-727 5705); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); **Leicester Square** (01426 915683); **Marble Arch** (01426 914501)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

Swiss Cottage (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

SHANGHAI TRIAD (15): Enjoyably opulent gangster saga from Chinese director Zhang Yimou. With Gong Li.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742); **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323); **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722)

CURRENT

◆ **CLUELESS** (12) Life and empty minds of Beverly Hills teenagers. Frivolous fun from director Amy Heckerling, with Alicia Silverstone
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636); **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **Plaza** (0171-437 1234); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332); **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **CRIMSON TIDE** (15) Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Director, Tony Scott
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772); **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914668); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **West End** (01426 915574); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332)

◆ **FRENCH KISS** (12)· Dizzy Meg Ryan gets entangled with French rogue Kevin Kline. Charmless romantic comedy, directed by Lawrence Kasdan
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096); **Trocadero** (0171-434 0031); **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353); **Kensington** (01426 914666); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332); **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15)· Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096); **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527); **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666); **Mezzanine** (01426 915683); **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332); **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TO WONG FOO THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, JULIE NEWMAR** (PG)· New York drag queens charm the mid-West. Cosy comedy drama, with Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo. Director, Beeban Kidron
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **MGM Haymarket** (0171-839 1527); **Plaza** (0171-437 1234); **UCI Whiteleys** (0171-792 3332); **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

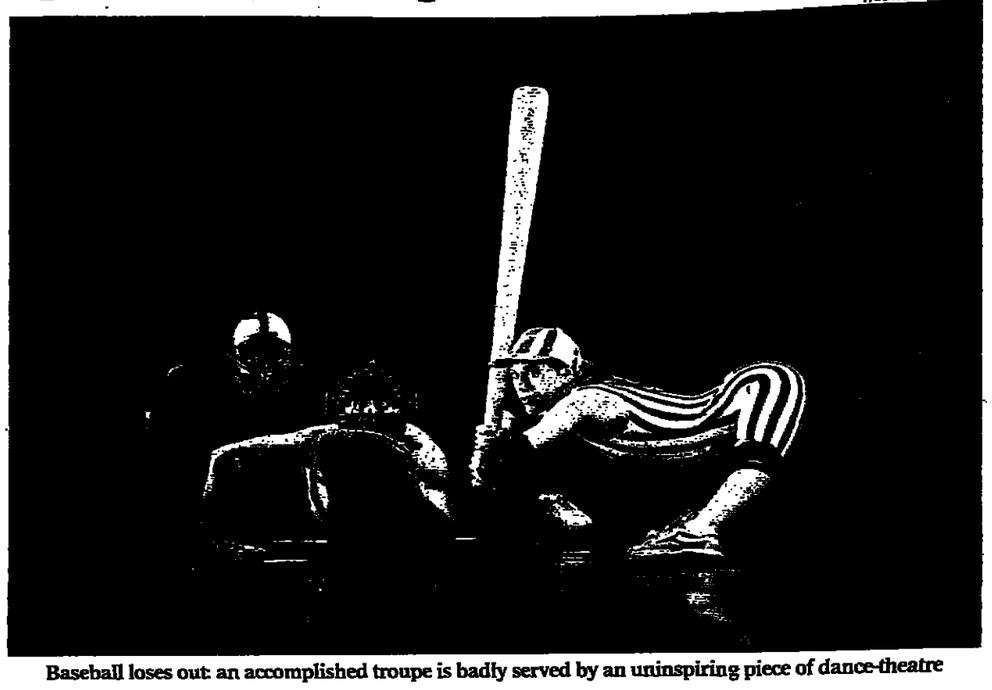
◆ **UNDER SIEGE 2** (18): *Die Hard* on a train, with an impassive star (Steven Seagal), a grinning villain (Eric Bogosian), and much tedious action.
MGM Trocadero (0171-434 0031); **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

Sporting chance goes begging

TRISTRAM KENTON

DANCE

Momix
Sadler's Wells



Baseball loses out: an accomplished troupe is badly served by an uninspiring piece of dance-theatre

Momix's new show at Sadler's Wells, *Baseball*, was inspired by America's favourite pastime. Now I have been to a few ball games in my time, and never have I seen one as uninspiring as this piece of dance-theatre conceived and directed by Moses Pendleton. With all that grace and power, all that physical instinct and competitive psychology to draw upon, Pendleton has struck out.

As you would expect, a bat and a ball figure large in the sport-dance continuum. Pendleton explores ten things you can do with a bat while the ball, a padded chap on legs, wanders through the ensemble as a jester-cum-fallguy, happily submitting to occasional flattening by one of the aforesaid bats.

There is a scenario of sorts. We start with a pitcher's mound shape-shifting into a huge glacial mountain. The birth of the world is followed by the birth of mankind, as Stone Age people discover the possibilities of a twig and a stone. Then we are into the modern age and ball players — an accomplished troupe of seven men and women — take to the field for almost two hours of vignettes.

Bats are swung — sometimes beautifully — and are used as gymnastic props, and the manual dexterity of the hard-working dancers is impressive. But the baseball theme, supported by slide projections illustrating key moments in the history and mythology of the game, quickly wears thin.

Perhaps as a 20-minute *pièce d'occasion* for the San Francisco Giants (which is how *Baseball* started life), it had a sporting chance. It also didn't help on opening night that the company's super-sophisticated slide projector broke down, necessitating an unscheduled half-hour interval while the technical crew repaired it.

The score is a ghastly compilation of rap and classical music mixed with nostalgic soundbites. Some of the musical cues are an embarrassment: a man guzzling beer out of a dancing can is suddenly met with James Brown's *I Feel Good*: the use of Queen singing *We Are The Champions* reads like a cheap attempt at sentiment.

Everywhere you turn you find pretentiously reverential homage to the game of baseball and its participants. Shattered dreams and fallen heroes are remembered in a maudlin requiem: sequences brazenly tug at the patriotic heartstrings of good Americans for whom baseball is the nation's defining symbol. The choreography, when it appears, hovers between moderately interesting physical illusion and irritatingly coy sexuality, and any good choreographic ideas are quickly diluted by constant repetition.

The end is so earnestly silly that for one horrible moment you think they must really mean it. It is the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and God's gift to Adam — you guessed it, a baseball.

DEBRA CRAINE

The surreal thing

CBSO/Rattle
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

The real Schnittke is the surreal Schnittke. One movement of his *Dead Souls Suite* begins with two metronomes set to tick at different tempi, neither of which corresponds to that of the subsequent entries of the organ and celesta, the slow waltz on the piano, the chord clusters on violas, the sounds plucked from the strings under the piano lid.

Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, who arranged the suite from a score written in 1983 for a film version of Gogol's *Dead Souls*, particularly enjoyed that movement. He set the metronomes himself, placing them on top of the piano as though they were part of some conjuring trick, turned at one point to give the keyboard a massive thwack with both hands and finally, of course, stopped the metronomes with another theatrical sleight-of-hand gesture. Having supported Schnittke's music through the most difficult material and political circumstances, he deserved, in conducting the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the first British performance of *Dead Souls*, that little self-indulgence.

Perhaps Rozhdestvensky had earned the right too to tamper with the orchestration of Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony*. Certainly, there are problems in getting the bacchanale at one point in the last movement to sound incisive enough in its original scoring for woodwind. But surely it is better either to make it work as it is or to rescore it in such a way that the extra instruments involved — horns and trumpets in this case — can actually play it effectively? Delightfully picturesque though it was in the Alpine Fairy scene, it was not a great performance of *Manfred*, anyway. Rozhdestvensky seems to be a too sophisticated musician to take absolutely seriously Byronic situations that Tchaikovsky himself clearly found less than completely convincing.

At the beginning of what turned out to be a long concert in Symphony Hall, Haydn's Symphony No 57 in D minor was well chosen neither for the acoustic nor for the programme's structure. It was a surprisingly dull performance.

GERALD LARNER

Happily challenged

LS/Salonen
Queen Elizabeth Hall

For the third and final concert of the London Sinfonietta's "The Composer Conducts" series, Esa-Pekka Salonen directed a programme of his own music alongside pieces by Webern, Lutoslawski and Bernd-Alois Zimmermann. Though the young Finn is better known internationally as a conductor, he started as a composer.

Salonen's output is not large, but most of his pieces reveal a fertile mind. They are neither uncompromising nor compromising in a post-modern way: post-serial might be a better description, for there remains a striking, avant-garde adventurousness about the best of them. *Floof*, which draws its onomatopoeic text from the Polish science-fiction writer Stanislaw Lem's *The Cyberiad*, is a humorous work that inhabits a strange sound-world — its five instrumentalists and coloratura soprano are amplified to give an almost "pop" flavour. The young Finnish singer Anu Komsi was an outstanding soloist, whose feat was not only to produce the guttural noises and piercing, stratospheric notes, but to deliver the text flawlessly from memory.

Yta III, for solo cello, was receiving its first London performance. No less fiendishly difficult than *Floof*, it evokes a moth circling a lamp, finally burning its wings and dying. Salonen has described it as his ugliest and most violent piece, and Anssi Karttunen played the snarling, slithering lines with macabre humour. We also heard the first UK performance of *Mimo II*, in effect a concerto for oboe and chamber orchestra. The title alludes to pantomime, and there is certainly a theatrical feeling to the way in which the soloist (Gareth Hulse) walks a technical tightrope. But few of the ideas which Salonen apparently develops rigorously came across: to the ear it sounded purely colouristic.

The Salonen pieces were more absorbing than either Lutoslawski's haunting but too-carefully crafted *Funeral Music* and Zimmermann's tortuous *Canto di Speranza*, both dispatched with virtuosity. Salonen brought a sense of flow to even the shortest of Webern's miniature *Five Pieces*, Op 10. A relaxed conductor, he seems to relish any challenge.

JOHN ALLISON

ENTERTAINMENTS

CLASSICAL CONCERTS



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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info Tickets available on the day The Royal Opera Tomor. Wed (Last Night) 7.00 MATHIS DER MALER Sat 7.30 (Last Night) FEDORA Mon 7.30 (First Night) AIDA Tue 7.30 TOSCA The Royal Ballet Tonight 7.30 Balanchine's APOLLO/MacMillan's SIDE SHOW/Balanchine's DUO CONCERTANT/Page's FEARFUL SYMMETRIES

THEATRES

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APOLLO 494 5068/344 4444/420 0000 HAYLEY MILLS "Magnificent" F T JENNY SEAGROVE "Impeccable" Times DEAD GUILTY 'Richard Harris' new play is THE PERFECT THRILLER' S Times Mon-Fri 8 Mats Thu 3 Sat 5 & 8.15

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 0171 416 6075/ 413 3321 Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £12.50

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CAMBRIDGE BO & cc 0171 494 5054 cc (no bkg fee) 312 1992/ 344 4444 Grps 413 3321/ 312 1970/ 494 5454 FAME THE MUSICAL "FAME IS A FEEL-GOOD TRIUMPH" Mail On Sunday "BREATHTAKING" Independent Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00

CHICHESTER FESTIVAL 28 Nov - 2 Dec Mark Rylance Jane Horrocks MACBETH BOOK ON 01243 781312

COMEDY 0171 369 1731 no cc no bkg fee cc 0171 344 4444 no bkg fee HAROLD PINTER "brilliant comedy performance" S Tel THE HOTHOUSE by Harold Pinter "David Jones's fine production" F.T "lethally funny" Guardian "A HOOT AND A SENSATION...DON'T MISS" Obs Eves 7.45 Mats Thur 3.00 & Sat 4.00 LAST WEEK MUST END SAT

COMEDY BO & cc 0171 369 1731 cc 0171 420 0000 (no bkg fee) ZOE WANAMAKER in THE GLASS MENAGERIE by TENNESSEE WILLIAMS Directed by Sam Mendes FROM 7 DEC BOOK NOW

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CRITERION 369 1747/420 0000/ 344 4444 RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB by Jonathan Harvey "wickedly funny...brilliantly comic" D Mail Tues-Sat 8 Sat 4 Sun 3 & 7 NB Two Sunday perfs!! OPENS 13 DECEMBER

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هكذا من الاصل



■ THEATRE 1

Maria Friedman leads a sour chorus of English liberals in Wertenbaker's new Royal Court play



■ THEATRE 2

. . . while the degradations of the film business are explored in Kopit's *Road to Nirvana*

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ CABARET

My life as Reg Holdsworth: a refugee from *Coronation St* gives Wycombe the inside story



■ TOMORROW

Dave Brubeck at 75: still pleasing the public and annoying the jazz buffs

Angst in the chattering classes

The Break of Day
Royal Court



Maria Friedman (Nina), Brian Protheroe (Hugh) and Nigel Terry (Robert) in a scene from Timberlake Wertenbaker's new *The Break of Day*

Last year, Max Stafford-Clark's Out of Joint brought London both Etherege's *Man of Mode*, a Restoration comedy inspired by the poet Rochester, and Stephen Jeffreys's *The Libertine*, a modern play directly concerning him. This year the company has been touring *The Three Sisters* in tandem with Timberlake Wertenbaker's new *The Break of Day*, which contains a character who is performing Chekhov's Vershinin for a small theatre, and a good deal of conversation on fin-de-siècle topics. The superficial connections between the two are not exactly unmissable.

But what of the deeper parallels? When we think of Chekhov, we surely think of people first, ideas second. We value him less as a social philosopher or prophet than as a human being with a profound understanding of men and women floundering in an era of change. Shaw signally failed to grasp this when he called his brilliant, brittle *Heartbreak House* "a fantasia in the Russian manner on English themes". *Break of Day* seems similarly to want to be subtitled: "A Chekhovian rumination on British, end-of-millennium, post-feminist anxieties"; but if Wertenbaker were to admit so, we would have to tell her she was missing something.

It is an intellectually spritely and entertaining piece, and in the second half it has its emotionally authentic passages. By then, a woman's need for children has become the primary subject, and it is one about which Wertenbaker has strong feelings. But there is still no pretending that the main characters are very rich and no concealing that some of the supporting ones are pretty raw.

Couples gather in an English garden: Robert (Nigel Terry), the Chekhov actor; Hugh (Brian Protheroe) a record producer; their wives Tess (Catherine Russell), a once-idealistic journalist turned cynical in middle age, and Nina (Maria Friedman), a singer who has lost her feminist inspiration. Add Jamie (David Fielder), a surgeon enraged by the impending closure of his hospital, and April (Anita Dobson), a lecturer fed up with the erosion of university standards, and we have what is presumably intended to be a representative mix of the liberal English in disillusion and disarray.

The conversation ranges from the awfulness of the 1980s to the awfulness of now to a future likely to be more awful than Chekhov's optimism claimed. Sentences like "compassion and humanity have cracked in the last 15 years and we've let it happen" wing across grass that has presumably been treated with Thatcherite weedkiller, for it too has become arid and parched.

But then a dim but pregnant girl (Kate Ashfield) comes to interrupt the social lament and turn the plot in a more personal direction. In a bold inversion of feminist cliché, both Hugh and Robert want to push their wives up the career ladder, and both Tess and Nina want something a lot more traditional.

The hankering for children takes Tess to a fertility clinic and Nina to an East European country we are assured is not Romania. The scenes with a British doctor who talks of "jollying up your eggs", and ends up blithely recommending foetus implants, is cartoon nightmare. The battles with foreign bureaucracy and ex-communist chaos generate greater tension and fun, although they too tend to be more Gogol than Chekhov. The actors, incidentally, are pretty lively throughout, with the occasional exception of Dobson.

A nice but revealing in-joke starts the second act. Nina and Hugh, waiting nervously in a Balkan airport, are accosted by a couple who mistake them for a theatrical delegation. "Aren't you David Edgar and Caryl Churchill?" they ask, indignantly grabbing back their welcoming bouquets. No; and on the evidence of this play nor yet is Wertenbaker. She has some way to go before she gives us a *Top Girls*, let alone a *Three Sisters*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Bubbling amid the soft soap

An Evening with Ken Morley
Wycombe Swan

Across the nation, the repercussions of that historic television broadcast are still being pondered and argued over. Questions of the utmost importance now have to be confronted. How can the marriage possibly survive? Should the call of duty take precedence over personal desire? How, above all, will they cope at the freezer centre?

The Oprah-fication of Kensington Palace is of secondary importance to devotees of genuine soap opera. The most significant event of last week, as any fule kno, was the departure of Ken Morley — known to millions as frozen food supremo Reg Holdsworth — from the cast of *Coronation Street*.

After six years in the programme Morley's character, a blustering middle manager and would-be aesthete, has acquired the status of a 1990s Everyman.

In the 1980s, no doubt, Reg would have been as avid a free marketeer as the next man. Now, well into middle age, his hairline fast receding, he sees the competition in the corporate jungle growing more ruthless and demanding by the day. The reality, for a man of Reg's vintage, is that he who dares must wear a toupée.

What secrets, then, would Morley disclose in this audience with the faithful? Ambling on to the stage with — what else? — a supermarket trolley, he had a distinct look of mischief about him, as if he was about to divulge enough behind-the-scenes gossip to keep the tabloids happy until the next lesbian kiss in *Brookside*.

But in the end Morley (or Reg — the two seem inextricably entwined) proved to be unexpectedly diplomatic. Perhaps the tastiest snippets are being held in reserve for his autobiography.

Never mind. He still had a colourful line in stories about his coming of age in 1950s Lancashire — an era, he recalled, when a young engineering apprentice who wore a pink shirt and listened to Tchaikovsky was asking for trouble.

And if the question-and-answer format was a little awkward, we still heard enough of the old Holdsworth epigrams. If La Rochefoucauld were alive today, he too might be working in a supermarket.

CLIVE DAVIS

Hopeless hopefuls in city of frantic dreams

Road to Nirvana
Traverse, Edinburgh



Maggie Norris: raffish and contemptuous ex-nun

What we all know about Hollywood is that its heartless inhabitants will do anything, betray anyone, in order to clinch the deal that will make them major operators in the movie business.

A man will "cut his wrists", "eat shit", he will "give his balls" to reach the heights where he can be feared and envied. "It's not love we want," says one of the characters here, or words to that effect. "It's *feigned* loved." Because only this is charged with the envy essential to confirm one's achievements.

So Arthur Kopit shows us three hopefuls in this city of frantic dreams, and what you may have assumed were just three loose metaphors from me — in the first sentence of my second paragraph — Kopit presents for real: the first one in front of our eyes, the second during the interval, and the third, thankfully, off-stage.

Al is a producer recently fired by a studio but now claiming to be an independent. He has combined forces with Lou, a raffish and contemptuous ex-nun — the mind boggles at her convent — and what binds these two together, and has bound them to the megastar of their new project, only becomes clear in the second half. For the first act we are in Al's Los Angeles garden, between a palm tree and the pool, where he is persuading Jerry, a partner he once fired, to work on the new film.

The script is so hot a property that the title page is a sheet of asbestos. Drooping Jerry, steeped in failure, is confused when the film turns out to be *Moby Dick*, but this is Melville for sex maniacs. Writer and star is none other than the greatest female rock singer in the history of the world, here called Nirvana. She will play Captain Ahab, roaming the seas in search not of a whale, but a great white sex organ. Which she will do battle with, grapple and so forth.

The scene in the second act, where Michael Taylor's design has turned the stage into Nirvana's malachite palace and she describes her film's climax to an awestruck Jerry, is a scene rich in the mad exaggerations typical of Kopit. The title of his first play, 30 years ago, was similarly extraordinary: *Oh Dad, Poor Dad, Mamma's Hung You in the Closet and I'm Feeling So Sad*.

That play was also blisteringly serious, and so is the intention of his latest, but when all is said and, er, done it is a simple story extravagantly packaged. Those metaphors of abasement and sacrifice, in becoming real actions, turn into metaphors again, for the same dehumanising states.

But if the content falls short of satisfying, the performances are vividly colourful in Justin Greene's smooth, swift production, in which monstrous demands are made to seem, by an awful logic, natural deeds if wealth is the only criterion of worth.

Stephen Frost and Maggie Norris are a ferocious pair of hustlers, Tara Hugo is the loopy star, and Lou Hirsch gives an engagingly funny portrait of a man swinging between denial and desire. Now aghast at the threat to his manhood — "This day is actually getting worse" — now falling back on the malachite steps, giggling hysterically at the discovery that, in his crazy world, worst equals best.

JEREMY KINGSTON



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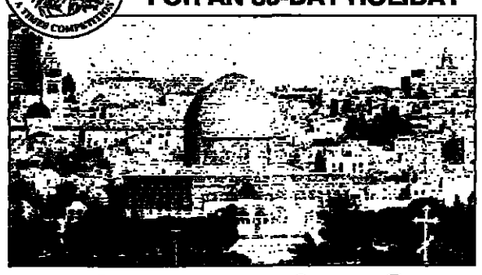
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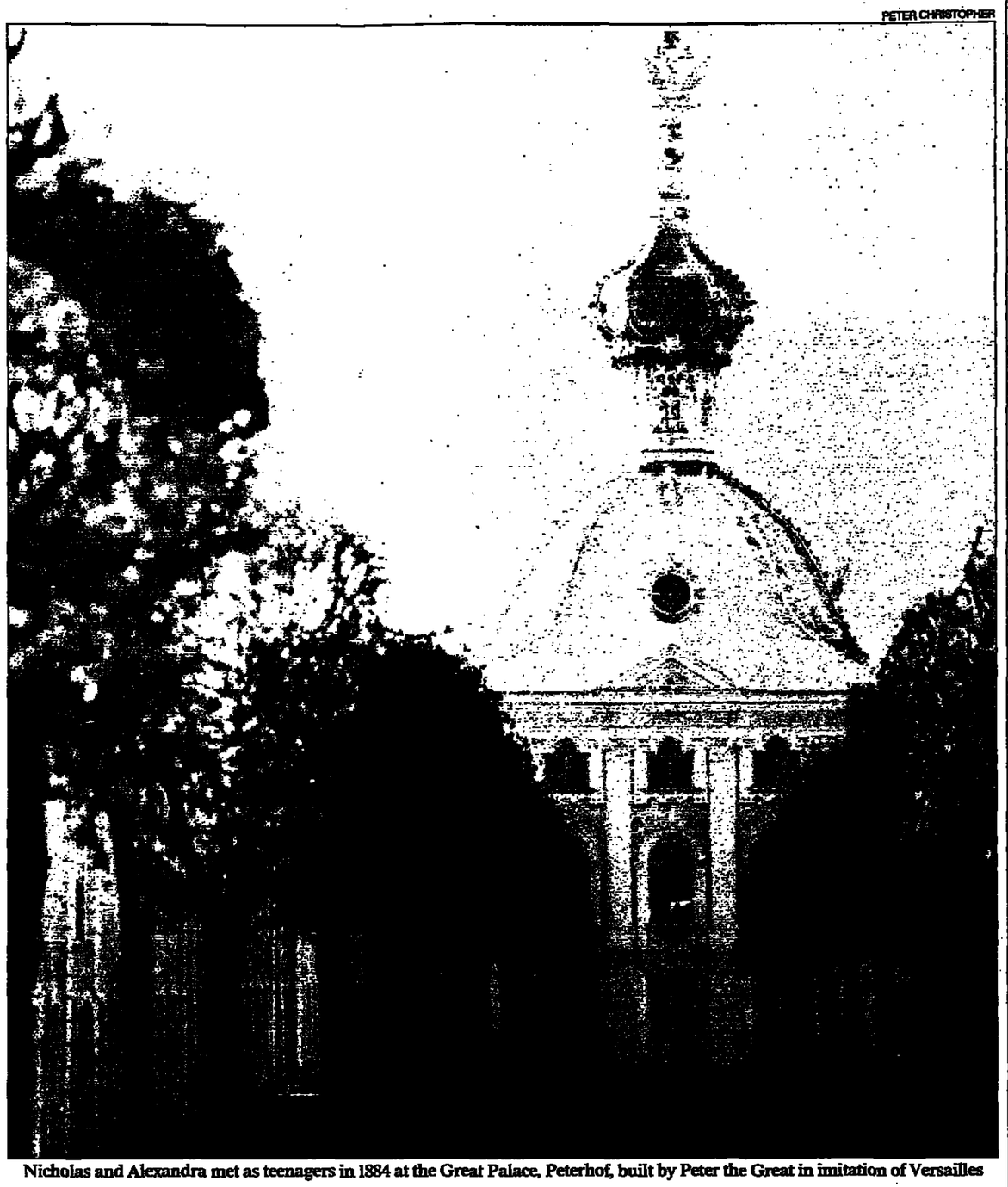
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Regicide of all the Russias

Norman Stone on the strange legacy of the last Romanovs' gruesome end

PETER CHRISTOPHER



Nicholas and Alexandra met as teenagers in 1884 at the Great Palace, Peterhof, built by Peter the Great in imitation of Versailles

THE ROMANOVS
The Final Chapter
By Robert K. Massie
Jonathan Cape, £17.95

TSAR
The Lost World of Nicholas and Alexandra
By Peter Kurth
Little, Brown. £35

THE FALL OF THE ROMANOVS
By Mark Steinberg and Vladimir Khrustalev
Yale, £18.50

Beware regimes that are nice. It usually means that they are just hopelessly inefficient, as Tsar Nicholas II was. For fear of criticism, whether for idleness or extravagance, he did his own secretarial work: licking the stamps, wrapping the gum-paper round parcels, etc. This, he thought, would constitute "work" in the eyes of the very critical, sniggering educated classes, who said in any case that Russia did not need a limited monarchy: she already had a limited monarchy. So, taking more and more power into nerveless hands, Nicholas II marched dutifully on to the disaster of 1917, and the horrible death of himself, his wife, his four daughters, his sick son, the nanny, and even the little boy's dog, at the hands of drunken provincial Communists in a far-away town on the edges of Siberia.

His gruesome end has a gruesome finale: the digging-up of remains from assorted holes in the earth; the sending of samples for DNA testing with British relatives; the final disproving (for such it has to be) of claims that there were any survivors of the massacre; and, perhaps in the not too distant future, a burial of the Tsar's remains in the Romanov crypt in the church of the Peter-Paul Fortress in St Petersburg. The Queen will be asked to attend, but I hope that she will just support those more modest Russian souls who would rather have the Tsar's end commemorated with a simple ceremony at a simple church, now rebuilt, in Yekaterinburg, where they were all slaughtered. Russians are not very good at simple ceremonies, but in this case they need to be encouraged.

Robert Massie made his reputation with *Nicholas and Alexandra*, a study of the two principals in the end of the Romanov dynasty. He has written a decent account of the rediscovery of the remains, the searches for bones, the identification of the slaughtered children, and his story remains horrible. Richard Pipes, in writing his recent account of the Bolshevik Revolution, devoted several pages to this, and quite right, too: a revolution that begins with the approval of its leader for the murder of children makes its character clear from the outset. The massacre was botched: bullets bounced off corsages that were reinforced by hidden jewels, so bayonets had to be used to finish the job, and the invalid Tsarevich was murdered along with his siblings. Many other members of the family were butchered; the survivors spread around the globe, most of them, so far as I can judge, thriving rather better than did the Habsburgs — admittedly, a much larger family, but one with its due share of drug addicts and black sheep. Massie writes very well, and takes the right advice (he has used William Clark's remarkable *Lost Treasures of the Romanovs* to effect) and this book is a proper, if harrowing, pendant to his earlier books on the Romanovs.

Tsar is an excellently produced volume of little-known archive photographs and new ones by Peter Christopher, with text by Peter Kurth. Tsarist St Petersburg has enormous appeal: an undergraduate of mine, Jonathan Hill, once remarked that it was a combination of "Wedgwood and cardboard". The Russia-hating Marquis de Custine called it "a monument that the Russians have put up to their future greatness", and he was right. I remember going round the Winter Palace nearly 25 years ago with a student — now Professor Dominic Lieven of the LSE — and saying in my Scottish way: "I wonder how much this cost." I have seen the text of this kind of book better done — Cloe Obolensky and Max Hayward's *Russian Empire* is unbeatable — but the illustrations, never, and I salivate at them.

Mark Steinberg, with a Russian collaborator from the archives, has produced a volume of documents about the last days of the Tsar. It is competently introduced, with an account of the last Tsar's character, and his bullying German wife. The documents speak for themselves, as the Bolsheviks, from top to bottom, devote themselves to the destruction of the Romanov family.

There is a remarkable novel on the Revolution, Solzhenitsyn's *Red Wheel*, written in numerous volumes and with obsessive detail in the author's seclusion in Vermont. It is not very widely read, in part because of Solzhenitsyn's one-man crusade to purify the language by reintroducing archaisms (and sometimes inventing them). A Russian friend told me that he only knew of two readers of the work — me, and the author's mother-in-law. It is difficult even for a Solzhenitsyn to work up much sympathy for the royal victims of "revolutionary situations". But with Nicholas II, Massie succeeds.

Ghoulish guru of the Surrealists

John Weightman

REVOLUTION OF THE MIND
The Life of André Breton
By Mark Polizzotti
Bloomsbury. £25

Surrealism, looked at from a distance, seems an exciting phenomenon, full of exotic personalities who were active in literature, painting, the theatre and the cinema, not only in France but also elsewhere. Consequently, one would expect the biography of André Breton, its chief begetter and self-appointed guardian, to be a stimulating story. Instead, these 600 pages have left me sunk in gloom. It is not the fault of the author, who has researched his subject with great care and lays out the facts impartially; what depresses is the spectacle of so much philosophical muddle, such monstrous egotism and repeated outpourings of bile instead of thought. Breton is certainly unique in one respect: he quarrelled, and quarrelled nastily, with more fellow writers and artists than any other literary figure has ever done. There is something sad and ridiculous about the holder of such a record.

Although, since 1988, he has been consecrated by admission to the *Gallimard Pléiade* series of French classics, Breton (1896-1966) was not primarily a writer. He was more of an *animateur*, a guru with powerful if fitful aura, who needed to feed on other people.

His aim, he said, was not to write poetry but to live it. He would assiduously woo anyone who might help to that end, only to reject these soul-mates as soon as their personalities ceased to fit comfortably under his own. He must have had a mesmeric quality that worked through personal contact, but is not perceptible in his writings. His books, with the exception of the semi-fictional *Nadja*, his only work to have had any general appeal, strike me as very disappointing; and even *Nadja* ends with the typically pompous but meaningless assertion: *La beauté sera convulsive ou elle ne sera pas.*

He abominated the Catholicism of his pious mother, yet he behaved like a religious leader. He needed to commune daily with his band of followers, whose discussions and Surreal activities he supervised with jealous care. He has often been called the Pope of Surrealism: I see him rather as being, on the one hand, a John the Baptist, perpetually announcing a divine advent that never materialised and, on the other, a Chief Inquisitor rooting out heretics. Since he himself was the changeable author of the dogma, he could scent a heresy at any moment: as a result, the membership of his little church was always in process of change.

The negative aspect of his doctrine was a radical intensification of the rebellious strain endemic in French culture since the 19th century. Conventional French society was to be rejected *en bloc* as spiritually dead and oppressive; literature was to be damned as a bourgeois survival; language itself, a bourgeois mental prison, needed to be disrupted. This did not at first involve commitment to political action, although it later led to *byzantine wrangles with the Communist Party* and to the defection of Aragon, the apostate most fiercely reviled by Breton. Breton himself had no aptitude for politics; he wanted "a revolution of the mind".

This meant getting rid of the Graeco-Latin inheritance as being too subservient to reason; escaping from rationality into the unconscious through "automatic writing"; looking for signs and portents and going as far as possible into insanity through hypnotically-induced delirium. We might say that he had rejected the concept of God, but was searching inside the human head for a paradoxical entity, the immanent transcendent, which would be the true poetic experience.

GUILLAUME APOLLINAIRE
LE
Poète assassiné



***Le Poète Assassiné* by Breton's hero Apollinaire, in *Creating French Culture* (Yale, £45)**

We might also say that if the experience of the immanent transcendent were possible, man would be God, which is another paradox.

Needless to say, Breton did not become God, and the games he played with his followers now seem childish, although there was one suicide and more than one case of mental derangement. Breton himself was surprisingly prudent, as Polizzotti points out: "It was as if he were forever standing on the edge of a precipice, applauding those who had jumped or had had the good fortune to fall; scorning those who held back; himself unable to take the final step."

Similarly, while condemning other people for accepting social compromises, he appears to have lived largely at the expense of others: his parents, his first wife and bourgeois or aristocratic patrons. In the end, he solicited government-sponsored lecture tours and, far from preaching the disruption of languge, worried about the mistakes in his daughter's French. All in all, then, a very fallible human being, but I suppose we have to agree that, in some mysterious way, he served as a catalyst, whose effect, for good or ill, is still detectable today.

Neither holy, nor Roman: just dynastic

Adam Zamoyski

THE HABSBURGS
By Andrew Wheatcroft
Viking. £20

COURT, CLOISTER AND CITY
The Art and Culture of Central Europe 1450-1800
By Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann
Weidenfeld & Nicolson. £25

The traditional British view of the Habsburgs is suffused with a nostalgic glow that defies historical analysis. They are considered to be the grandest European dynasty, when in fact they are parvenus next to the Capetians. They are believed to have been great patrons of the arts, when almost every elector of the empire they epitomised created more beauty than they did. They are felt to have been civilised and benevolent when in effect their rule was stupidly severe, occasionally lapsing into brutish savagery. The consequence of this is the ludicrous opinion, voiced half-seriously but persistently, that the cure for the problems of Central Europe is the re-establishment of the Habsburg Empire. This ignores the fact that most of the problems in Central Europe were created by Habsburg rule, whose vicious logic required that all subject peoples should be encouraged to hate each other.

Andrew Wheatcroft's new book therefore set various alarm bells ringing in this reviewer's mind, particularly when the last illustration proved to be a photograph of a grinning Dr Otto von Habsburg (son of the last Emperor, Karl, and present family head) surrounded by his brood. But Wheatcroft sets our mind at ease. "I do not want to fall into the trap of monarchist sycophancy," he declares; he is at heart a "Red".

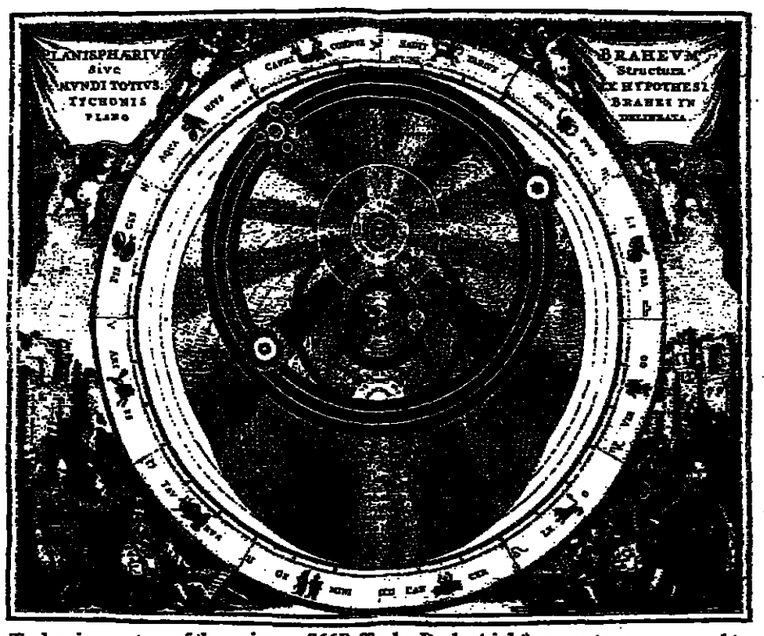
The only red thing about the first hundred pages or so are the graphic descriptions of endless battles, complete with specifications as to what a Swiss pike could do to a head or neck. Things get blacker when he moves on to what he calls "the Habsburgs' invisible power". He rightly focuses on the Habsburgs' self-invented image and dynastic mythology. But he fails to relate it to other mythologies and imageries; every dynasty since ancient times has been at it. And he does not fit this image-building and rebuilding to the ventures, the failures and policy changes which it was called upon to dress up.

There is no real sense here of that extraordinary bid for supremacy which singles out the Habsburgs. Three centuries of manoeuvres, marriages and wars to lever rivals out of Italy and do the Luxemburgs and the Jagiellons out of their land do not get the attention they deserve. Nor does Philip II's heroic failure to bring this country into his grasp. Had his marital plans or his naval ventures worked out, the sun might never have set on the Habsburg Empire.

After that, the Habsburg story is one of hanging on, with increasing desperation. At the beginning of the 18th century the Bourbons stripped them of Spain and its empire. A century later Napoleon forced Francis II of the Holy Roman Empire to restyle himself Francis I of Austria. They hung on for another century, trapped within an aberrant philosophy of their own invention, a "system" that had become an end rather than a means. The means required to keep it going grew increasingly unpleasant beneath a sugary gloss of operettas and waltzes. They included gratuitous cruelty to Italian liberals, bestial treatment of Hungary in 1848 and the refinement of rewarding Ruthene peasants for the severed heads of liberal nobles in Galicia.

Yet many remain fascinated by the fate of this dynasty and feel affected by its downfall. Tragedy there certainly was, even if it was the consequence of the Habsburgs' own imbecility. And it is easier to convey the tragedy of the uncomprehending Habsburg emperor of Mexico, Maximilian, facing a firing-squad at Querétaro in 1867, than that of the thousands of anonymous Mexican peasants he had butchered. It is all a question of taste.

The region in which the Habsburgs' legacy has been most keenly debated is, of course, Central Europe. Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann's *Court, Cloister and City* considers early modern Central Europe as a single cultural entity. He defines it as the area of the Holy Roman Empire under the Habsburgs, plus the two kingdoms of Poland and Hungary. These lands were bound by dynastic interconnection and a shared religious culture — and not least by a certain sense of insecurity which made them cling to the spiritual legacy of Rome with exaggerated tenacity. The area was (and is) inhabited by extraordinarily varied ethnic groups which sought a common identity in this tradition.



Tychonian system of the universe (1661): Tycho Brahe (right) was astronomer royal to the Habsburg Emperor Rudolf II; from Carole Stott's *Celestial Charts* (Studio £12.99)

Kaufmann's temporal parameters are judicious. He begins at the moment when the Renaissance penetrated the area, reaffirming that Roman legacy just as the Reformation was about to shatter the original, religious, unity. He ends with the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire and the Polish Commonwealth, ushering in the age of nationalism, which overrode this shared legacy.

The intellectual climates created by the age of nationalism wreaked havoc with the study of the area's cultural history, as cohorts of professorial beards and glinting spectacles took up their positions on the cultural battlefield, and proceeded to churn out specious arguments claiming artists and scientists for their own nation. Kaufmann slays many of the preposterous old dragons bred by nationalism. He is at his best when he questions the "Germanness", both physical and inspirational, of such contentious figures as Veit Stoss and Albrecht Dürer.

Kaufmann is good on the movement of artists and their influences. The Renaissance influences that reached Muscovy (which he confusingly refers to as "Russia" in the 1450s) collided with a cultural context that blocked their further development. Yet in Hungary, Poland and southern Germany, they met with cultural traditions which allowed them to evolve further.

He displays impressive scholarship and an astonishing grasp of material. Only I cannot help feeling that he has taken on too much. He is very sound on southern Germany and the Bohemia of Rudolf II, somewhat shakier on Hungary, Poland and Russia. This imbalance accords ill with the professed aim of the book. If Central Europe is to be considered "as a cultural entity", then a given theme must be traced right across it. Kaufmann is too academic to pick out salient areas and to generalise outrageously on others. He keeps his enthusiasm under control and tries to be scrupulously fair to both sides of every coin. This makes for dense prose and renders the book less enjoyable than it should be. It is still a considerable achievement.



هكذا من الاصل

Robert Skidelsky recalls the SDP, which tried to break the mould of British politics but chose the wrong man to do it

Claret, sweat and tears



David Owen and Roy Jenkins at the 1981 Warrington by-election: when Jenkins resigned and Owen became leader, the party was too little and he was too late

The Social Democratic Party buzzed like a bee in the 1980s and then expired, leaving many shattered hopes and broken careers. It started on March 26, 1981, as a breakaway of 14 (eventually 28) MPs from a suicidally left-wing Labour Party. The "Alliance" it formed with the Liberal Party won 25.4 per cent of the vote in the 1983 general election, with 23.1 per cent in 1987.

But under our "first past the post" system, its parliamentary reward was meagre. After 1987 there were only five SDP MPs. In 1988 part of the SDP merged with the Liberals; the rest continued as a separate party under David Owen till he wound it up in 1990. The only obvious political legacy of the SDP was to make the successor party, the Liberal Democrats, "more managerial and disciplined".

That, at any rate, is the conclusion of this often gripping, but far from authoritative study of the "birth, life and death of the SDP", written by two political scientists from Essex University. It alternates between entertaining chapters of gossip and sober chapters of organisational and electoral analysis. But essential parts of the context are left out. The SDP was ready for the weakness of Labour, not for the strength of Thatcherism. Almost immediately, the question of its positioning in relation to the "Thatcher revolution" became critical to its ability to win and hold seats. Remove this political context and the quarrels within the SDP about how close to get to the Liberals and much else are inevitably reduced to a clash of personalities, with David Owen in his familiar role of wrecker.

SDP: The Birth, Life and Death of the Social Democratic Party
By Ivor Crewe and Anthony King
OUP, £25

The portrait of Owen is pure caricature. Owen *is* difficult. He appears here, at best, as a smouldering volcano, always on the verge of eruption: at worst, as an egomaniac. His generosity of spirit, his real interest in ideas, his sense of strategic direction are ignored. He was consistent in wanting to keep the SDP separate from the Liberals. This was the root of his estrangement from Bill Rodgers and Shirley Williams, who felt increasingly comfortable in the Liberal home (Roy Jenkins did so from the start). Whether the kind of SDP Owen wanted could have put down roots in the early 1980s is the major untested proposition because such an SDP never emerged.

For this there were two main reasons. The first is that the breakaway party, looking back to a consensual, corporatist past, was slow to get the measure of the 1980s. As a result you had the paradox of a new party with nothing new to say. This was not true of Owen. He started advocating a "social market economy" in May 1981 — a fact Crewe and King omit. This, together with his strong support for the Falklands War and the retention of Britain's nuclear deterrent, pointed to a patriotic, market-based party with generous social instincts. But there was little support from Jenkins, Rodgers and Williams for such a semi-Thatcherite package. For them, Thatcher was still the Devil incarnate.

Other potential gains were unexploited. Crewe and King show that 53 per cent of SDP activists had been to grammar school, and 70 per cent of Alliance voters (as well as 84 per cent of Tory and 57 per cent of Labour voters) wanted grammar schools restored. Yet the SDP was far too cautious to break out into such politically incorrect terrain. Thatcher was always one step ahead. The SDP's curse was to be supported by too many of the *bien pensants*.

The other reason for the SDP's failure to develop a separate identity was that it was captured by Roy Jenkins and the Liberal leader David Steel, who saw a chance to bring an Alliance government quickly to power on a wave of popular disenchantment with "extremism". This strategy was just plausible in the autumn of 1981, when opinion polls showed 50 per cent popular support for the Liberals and SDP. Why did it persist when Alliance support started to crumble in 1982?

The short answer is that Shirley Williams shirked the Warrington by-election of June 1981, which she probably would have won and which would have made her leader of the SDP. Jenkins stepped in, reduced Labour's majority from 10,274 to 1,759, and by his "reluctant boldness" became the automatic choice as SDP leader when he returned to Parliament as MP for Hillhead in March 1982.

Jenkins was older than the others and badly wanted to be Prime Minister. He was committed to the strategy of a single push and for that he needed the Liberals; Steel, in turn, needed the SDP to break out of the Liberals' Celtic-fringe-cum-community-politics ghetto. Crewe and King concede that Jenkins's 11-month leadership of the SDP was a disaster. They do not mention that Williams's decision not to contest Warrington was taken "largely on the advice of Tony King, the Professor of Politics at Essex University and a close friend" (David Owen, *Time to Declare*, page 520.)

In a sense, the SDP's death started before it had begun to live: it was strangled at birth. Between 1983 and 1987 the midget party was kept alive only by the outsize personality and appeal of Owen. By the time he and the "continuing SDP" were able to free themselves from the Liberal embrace in 1988, it was too late, and perhaps he had lost interest.

Should Jenkins, Owen, Rodgers and Williams have stayed on, to "fight and fight again" in the Labour Party? Loyalty is a great political virtue. But the amount of lying and self-abasement required of right-wing Labour politicians by 1980 went far beyond the call of party duty. Do we admire Healey and Hattersley for their broken-backed response to Tony Benn's takeover bid? I don't think so. Nor did it do them any good.

Is it really true that "almost no trace of the SDP" is to be found in contemporary British politics? The emergence of Tony Blair's "new Labour", we are told, "owed almost nothing to the SDP"; the Tories were "almost wholly unaffected" by it. The arguments supporting these dogmatic assertions are flimsy. If Crewe and King had followed the trail of ideas, rather than of political corpses, they would have found many traces; and some of the bodies they have not noticed are starting to appear in places where they have not deigned to look.

The meritocracy and its Maecenas

Prescriptions for social and economic advance either tend towards the belief that less should be expected of government and more of individual aspirations, or hold that tuning the instruments of the State best promotes the common good. The youthful Michael Young spent a formative and successful period in the latter camp, drafting the Labour Party's manifesto for the 1945 election and heading its research department throughout the years of its implementation.

He was frustrated, however, by the dynamics of the mainstream political process, and embarked on a "third road". Since then, in dozens of ways, he has shown that the scope for making a difference to society is just as wide outside government as within it.

Now, as Lord Young of Dartington, he has just turned 80, and an illustrious selection of the hundreds of people with whom he has collaborated pays tribute to him in this collection of essays on his life and work. He is not a household name, partly because of his lack of interest in self-promotion; and yet he is undoubtedly one of the pre-eminent figures of the postwar period. His roles as thinker, researcher, reformer and entrepreneur bind these disparate items together.


Great and good: Lord Young of Dartington

All his life, Young's work has been grounded in Utopianism, which makes it ironic that the most important exposition of his ideas, *The Rise of the Meritocracy*, is a satirical and dystopian vision, described in Daniel Bell's essay as "one of the most imaginative social-science fictions of the 20th century". But his theory is carefully mapped on to the real world, and as several contributors comment, Young staunchly refuses to let abstract sociological models deflect from his own understanding of everyday life. W.G. Runciman and others show how this is reflected in his research methods, where his gift for drawing out interviewees is the foundation for vivid and penetrating analyses of social conditions in his books, such as *Family and Kinship in East London*.

Young has never been content to wait for the slow-burning impact of his thinking to reach practical realisation through public policy. Armed by his preoccupations with disadvantage, the family, the consumer and lifelong learning, he has devoted most of his energy during the past half-century to spawning new organisations. Name a social invention of the last 40 years and it is likely that he thought of it, pushed for it, or set it up. The early chapters cover many of these, among them the Consumers' Association and the Open University. The book is also littered with testimonies to Young's extraordinary abilities as a fundraiser, a businessman and a developer of the talents of others.

What could have been a mere panoply of praise is spiced by the variety of Young's career, a career which has earned its eulogies despite the fact that it isn't even over yet: he is still active, writing, and establishing new initiatives, most recently for the promotion of distance learning in southern Africa. He remains, too, a learner himself: Tessa Blackstone offers an amusing account of Young's simultaneous incumbency as President and student of Birkbeck College.

Two questions remain: what motivates such relentless energy, and how did his rare attributes emerge? Vincent Brome recalls a journey with Young on which they discussed whether the satisfactions of altruism were "so deep that they far outreached those of selfishness". Another contributor to this excellent festschrift, Asa Briggs, who is writing Young's biography, may provide some answers.

Josh Hillmann is a research fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research.

Josh Hillman

YOUNG AT EIGHTY
The Prolific Public Life of Michael Young
Edited by Geoffrey Dench, Tony Flower and Kate Gavron
Carcanet, £18

Media hitman for all seasons

Alain de Botton

JUNK MAIL
By Will Self
Bloomsbury, £12.99

WILL SELF prefaces his latest book, a collection of journalism, with the candid admission that it "represents the fruit of being prepared to do more or less what any editor asks me to do". Despite such pliancy in the face of editorial demands, Self is confident that the articles he has chosen to reprint here fall safely on the right side of Cyril Connolly's celebrated distinction: between journalism, that which should be read only once, and literature, that which can sustain repeated viewing. At times, Self's various newspaper and magazine editors wanted book reviews, at others, longer profiles or travel pieces. But there was surprising consistency in how they used Self: he was their man for anything to do with drugs.

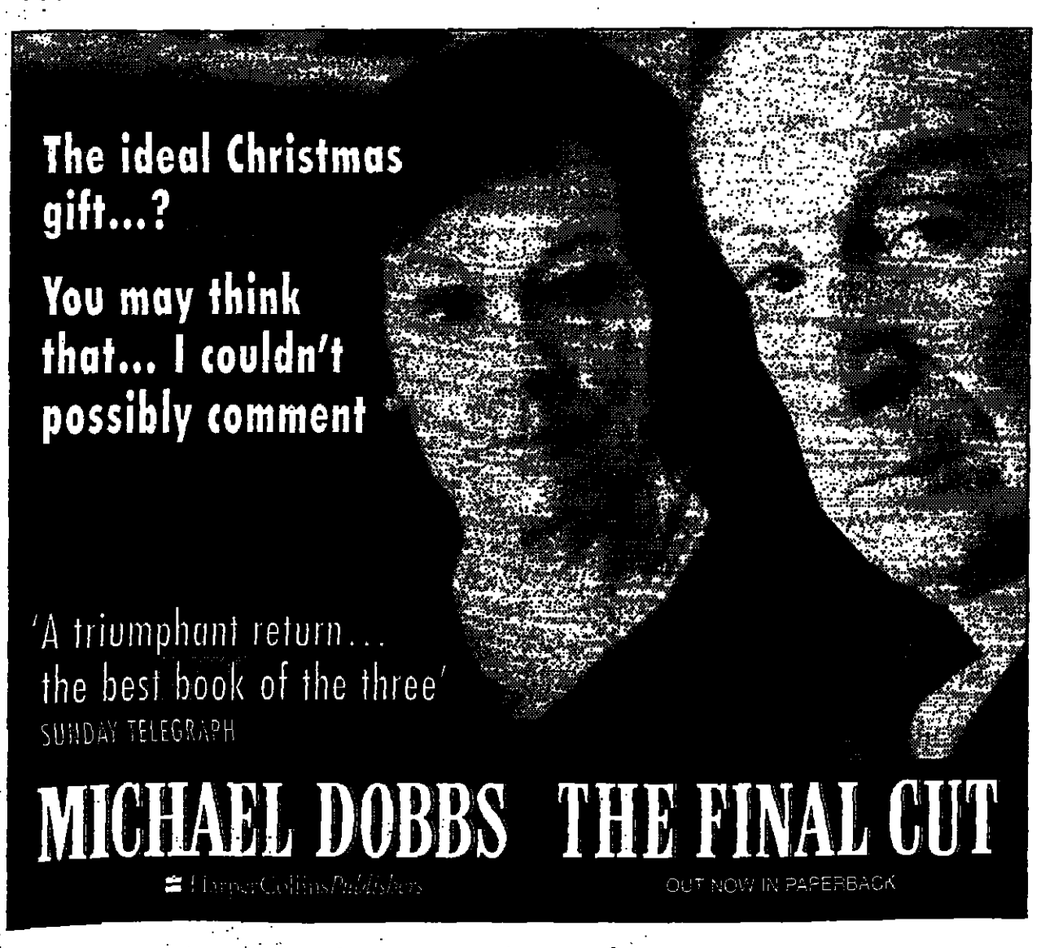
The enthusiasm for sending Self out to cover drug stories is explained by another of his candid admissions. "I grew up on drugs," he tells us, "By the time I was 15, I was a daily drug user . . . Speed and dope; and then heroin when I was 17." Though such habits should in no way influence our view of him as a writer, Self is subtle in allowing for the possibility that it generally does. He explains that drugs have had an unfortunate tendency to be equated with art as a symbol of creativity — a writer known to be drug user has, in our culture, an aura out of reach to one who simply likes elderflower cordial.

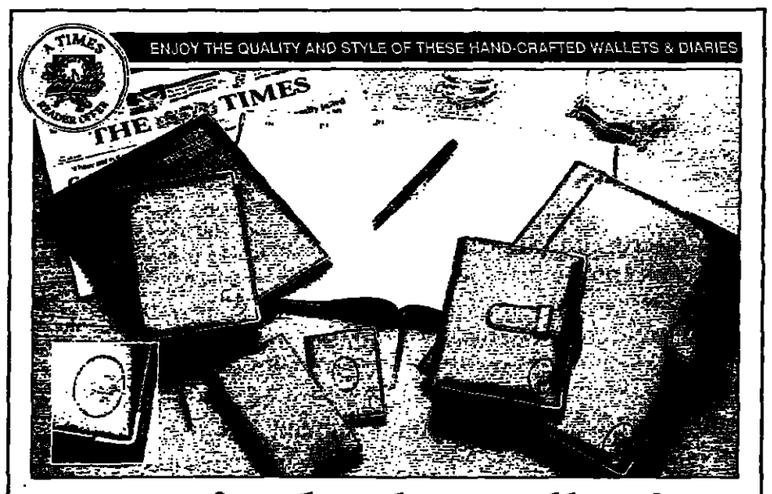
But Self wants it both ways. The title and arrangement of this collection draws attention to addiction, but he is impatient with non-drug users' ghoulish interest in narcotics. At the end of a piece about London drug dealers, Self rounds on his unaddicted commuter readers: "You don't want to stay in the drug zone, do you? No, I didn't think so. Turn the page, get on with the next article, go home."

IF SELF is so irritated, it is because he knows how seductive and yet perilous the image of drugs can be. In articles on William Burroughs, he deplores the way in which Burroughs's qualities as a writer have been confused in the popular imagination with his drug use. Those encouraged to take drugs by Burroughs failed to realise the distinction between writing the life of a junkie and living it, which explains why Burroughs is still alive and many of his fans are not. Self was once a victim of such confusion, believing that "if you were a hard drug addict, you were an underground writer, of necessity . . . I felt very cheated when I woke up at the age of 21 with a bad heroin habit, in complete obscurity."

Self still feels that drug use should have a place in our culture, but sadly his enthusiasm for developing his ideas on the topic has an unfortunate tendency to flag, so that the reader ends up having little trouble agreeing with him when, rather surprisingly, he sides with Thomas Szasz's view that the debate on drugs is ultimately boring.

The rest of this collection meanders cheerfully over a range of topics: there is a piece on Self's enthusiasm for driving on motorways, another on flying first class to New York, another about getting a cyst removed from his penis. The prose alternates between machismo and erudition. With such honesty in admitting to the origins of this collection, it would be churlish to fault *Junk Mail* according to literary standards. It offers no more and no less than a good Sunday paper arts section.





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Santa's grotto flights restart

BY TONY DAWE

THE rush is on to see Santa Claus in his grotto, not in the nearest city centre store, but in the Arctic wastes of Lapland. Record numbers of British tourists are expected to fly to Finland in the next three weeks for short visits that include a meeting with Santa.

Transun Holidays is organising charter flights to Rovaniemi from 23 UK airports starting on December 9 with day trips from Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Glasgow and Jersey. The cost varies between £179 and £199 per person, depending on the departure airport, and includes coach transfers to Santa's village to see his workshop and post office. Transun took 3,500 visitors to Lapland last year and hopes for more than 4,000 this year.

Cosmos has pulled out of the day-trip market but expects to take 2,000 tourists on four-to-six day visits, from £569 per person, to Levi, served by the less crowded Arctic Circle airport of Kittila.

"We have found that people are prepared to pay a little more for a longer stay which will give them the chance to take snowmobile and husky safaris or go skiing," says Barbara Kurau, of Cosmos.

Cheaper stays are available: Superlative Travel, of west London, offers four days in Lapland from December 11 for £299 per person. British Airways started the ball rolling on Tuesday by taking more than 100 mainly disadvantaged children on a day trip to Rovaniemi aboard a new Boeing 777.

Finnair will operate 21 scheduled services from Heathrow to Rovaniemi in December compared with five last year.

"The Santa business is booming," says Ulla Pakarinen, the Finnish Tourist Board's UK director. "We are attracting visitors from Japan and the Far East and several European countries, including France, but the largest number come from Britain. We are expecting 12,000 in December, which would be double the figure two years ago. Many parents regard the trip as a Christmas present for their children and are staying longer so they can all enjoy the adventure programmes."

Most holidays over Christmas are sold out, adds Mrs Pakarinen, because Lapland offers "a traditional Christmas with the perfect setting, a real winter wonderland".





Fly-and-buy boom

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

THOUSANDS of cost-conscious travellers are cutting their Christmas shopping bills by ordering tax-free presents by telephone which they collect before boarding their jets at Britain's biggest airports.

BAA, the airport operator which runs Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, claims that its free personal shopping service is now being used by more than 150 customers a week and that the number is growing rapidly.

At least 15 high street retailers are now operating in each of the terminals, offering reductions of about 15 per cent on the normal price of popular products.

BAA makes more money from its shops than from landing fees. And despite the introduction of the airport departure tax, the number of flights and passengers is growing inexorably.

Popular high street stores such as Dixons, HMV, Austin Reed, Tie Rack, Liberty and Burberry are among dozens cashing in on this captive audience and the boom in airport trading.

BAA guarantees that all prices quoted by retailers granted franchises to open their doors at the airport will be at least free of VAT. Often prices are well below the VAT-free level and the demand for bargains has been so great that BAA has opened a booking service enabling canny shoppers to order by phone in advance and collect their purchases as they pass through the airport.

Business travellers in a hurry are among the most frequent users of the service because, they claim, it is a way of using up "dead time" spent at the airport.

Last week alone, BAA's shopping "consultants" — specialist advisers who either take orders by telephone in advance then have the goods ready when the passenger arrives at the airport, or who guide shoppers in person around the stores — took orders for three Rolex watches, a facsimile machine and a $10,000 uncut diamond, which was to be used in an engagement ring in America.

Though the average saving on tax-free goods is about 15 per cent, the price reductions on duty-free items such as drink is even greater. Most popular brands of spirits are now half the price of those in high street shops, enabling regular travellers to cash in even more on the windfall offered at the airports.

This week's Budget will mean that the average high street price of a litre bottle of spirits will fall by 36p, once retailers have sold their existing stock. BAA officials said yesterday they were planning to introduce comparative price cuts.

The European Union and British Customs have, however, pledged to wind up duty and tax-free sales within the next three years, ending the Christmas shopping bonanzas for travellers.

Duty-free cut sparks chaos

HORDES of Channel Tunnel "booze train" passengers are besieging Eurotunnel duty-free shops after the company announced it was cutting the price of its spirits and cigarettes by a third, *Jonathan Prynn writes*.

Thousands of Christmas bargain hunters, many of them on day-return coach outings through the tunnel, are queueing for up to three hours amid chaotic scenes at the Eurotunnel terminals in Folkestone and Calais.

Other passengers, hoping to use Le Shuttle as the fast way to drive to France, have complained about missing appointments after being caught up in the maelstrom at the terminal shopping areas and their car parks.

Gillie Coghlan, 41, a financial analyst from Oxford, said she was late for an important business lunch in France after she visited the duty-free shop at the Folkestone terminal earlier this month.

"The queue to get into the shop was 100 yards long and six people wide," she said. "I could not get anywhere near the counter." After abandoning the plan to buy duty-free, Mrs Coghlan returned to her car but was unable to get out of the car park for two hours. On her return to England she was told that there would also be a two-hour wait at the duty-free shop in the Calais terminal.

The duty-free reductions, combined with the current special winter fares on Le Shuttle trains, mean that the potential savings can easily cover the cost of a trip. A party of four adults travelling by car could make a total saving of more than £200 compared with high street prices by making full use of their spirit and tobacco duty-free allowances. A mid-week day-return ticket for a car and passengers costs £39.

A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel, which cut 33 per cent off its duty-free alcohol and tobacco products last month, said extra tills were being installed at the shops to cope with the surge in demand. In the meantime, jazz bands, jugglers and clowns were being laid on to keep the queues entertained while they waited, she said. Last Friday, a record 6,900 vehicles, including hundreds of coaches, were carried on the Channel Tunnel trains.

"Passengers are being advised at that there are queues at the duty-free shops and if they want to get to France in a hurry they should go straight on to their trains," she said.

A spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said its duty-free prices would not be affected by the Budget. Its prices remain £6.35 for a litre of Gordon's gin compared with £10 for the normal duty-free price, £6.65 for a litre of Bell's Scotch compared with £10.95 previously, and £10 for 200 Marlboro cigarettes compared with £14.75 before.

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A bit dog eared

Last week's heart-warming story of Louise, the tiny shih-tzu dog rescued from the overheated cargo hold of a BA jet after 208 passengers agreed to a lengthy and costly diversion, has a thought-provoking sub-plot.

Louise's owner is Irene Saunders, 53, who has decided to live in the Cotswold village of Bourton-on-the-Water. She tells me she fell in love with England during a holiday visit that convinced her to spend her last years in the countryside of Middle England rather than at home in great spaces of Texas. "I am a widow with no family left except this little dog," she says. "I could have lived anywhere in the world, but I chose the Cotswolds because to me they are charming, gentle and welcoming."

Bourton-on-the Water has a population of fewer than 3,000 and yet attracts some two million visitors a year. At least 40 per cent of the foreign tourists who are disgorged from their coaches at the village green are from the United States.

So great is the popularity of



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

Bourton that it has come to be regarded among economists and sociologists as the perfect example of a "positional good" — something which loses its status or value when it becomes accessible to all.

I hope, therefore, that Mrs Saunders settles happily in Bourton and is not disappointed as she begins to realise that it may have lost much of its intrinsic charm and quintessential Englishness because of mass international tourism. Surprisingly, research indicates she may just be lucky.

The Cotswold District Council carried out a survey of both visitors to, and residents of, Bourton to try to establish how they might live in harmony. "The view has sometimes been expressed that there are too many visitors to Bourton and a need to introduce controls to try to reduce the numbers," said its report.

"Yet two out of three visitors interviewed were of the opinion that the level of visitors was not too high and only 12 per cent of the remaining third said that it had spoilt their visit.

"It appears that from the visitors' point of view Bourton offers all the features that we would wish to be seen as indicative of the Cotswolds rather than a village that has lost some of its character through commercialisation of tourism — yet the more crowded it becomes the less able they are to appreciate it."

Local residents, on the other hand, thought there were too many tourists who were bringing it "downmarket"; were worried about the litter; and felt the village was "not flourishing, merely surviving".

Many an expat Briton who has tried to turn a holiday infatuation with a supposedly "idyllic" foreign resort into living reality has faced disillusionment. Let's hope Mrs Saunders doesn't.

MORE TRAVEL

Travel the world again in Weekend on Saturday — with *Times* writers in Burma, Afghanistan, Iran, Venice, St Petersburg and Crested Butte.

Oman out to lure UK tourists

By Harvey Elliott

ONE OF Arabia's most spectacular, but least known, countries is dipping its toe into the international tourism market — 25 years after it first emerged from centuries of isolation.

As Jeremy Hanley, the Foreign Office minister, discovered this week when he paid an official visit to Oman on its quarter century, the Sultanate is trying to wean itself from a dependence on oil. Now Oman has decided to develop new industries to cushion the blow when the oil starts to run out.

But though 30 new tourism developments, including a luxury yachting marina, are under way, in the short term a shortage of hotel beds, together with a conservative attitude towards tourists, means that the growth will not be rushed.

Two of Oman's biggest hotels, the award-winning Al Bustan Palace and the Intercontinental, are closing their doors next week so that Oman can host the summit conference for the six countries in the Gulf Co-operation Council. Regional concerns continue to take priority over the needs of the small but fast-growing groups of tourists arriving in Muscat, the capital, even if this means that 500 of the best hotel rooms in the region are temporarily out of bounds.

When the Anglophile Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, English-educated and a graduate of Sandhurst, ousted his repressive father in 1970, there were only ten kilometres of asphalt roads in the whole country. Now there are 7,000. There were three schools and 900 students in a nation of more than two million. Now there are 900 schools and half a million students. Omanis are gradually replacing the foreign workers who carried out much of the development.

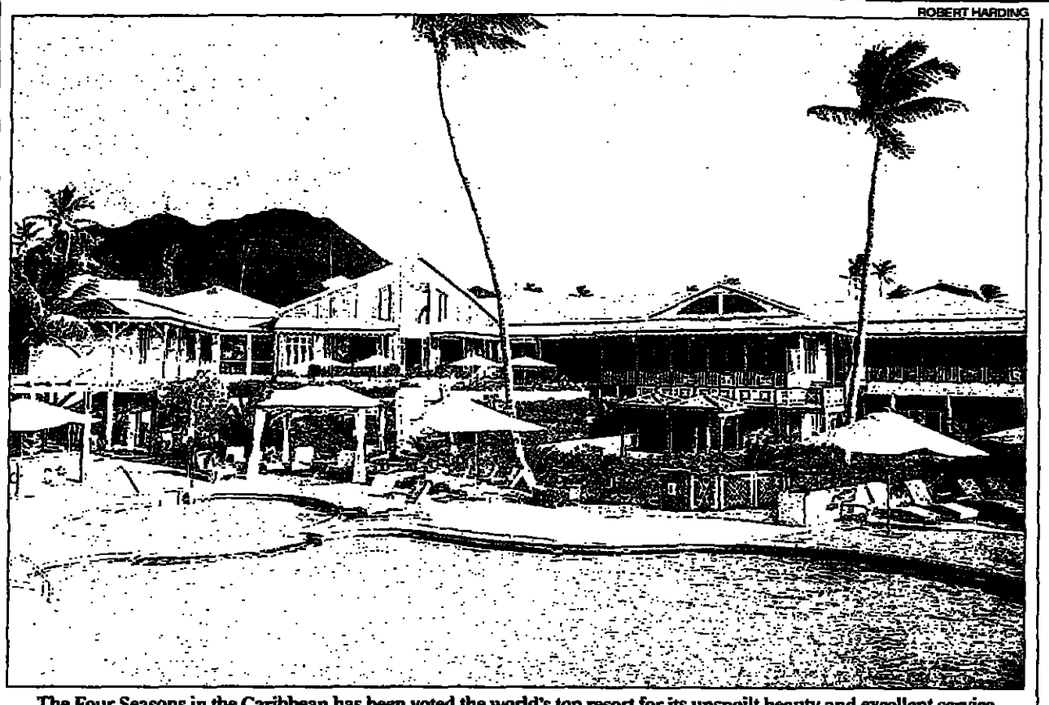
Now private, government-approved tour companies are taking parties of tourists to towering multicoloured mountains, enormous sand dunes, ancient villages, forts and unspoilt oases.

But the Sultan is determined to prevent the new industry from developing too quickly and wants to avoid mass tourism. Because he has concentrated for the past 25 years on building infrastructure, buildings are modern, efficient and pristine. There is little crime, women can walk anywhere without fear of being molested and the begging and aggressive trinket-selling that bedevils much of the Middle East is absent.

The Omanis take a relaxed view of habits such as alcohol, and though there are no streetside bars, hotels and restaurants are well stocked. Women are expected to cover their limbs in public, shorts are frowned upon and only Omanis are allowed to wear the ubiquitous cover-all robe, but there is no hint of fanaticism. Sultan Qaboos said in a recent interview: "There is no place in our religion for extremism in whatever guise, fanaticism of whatever kind and factionalism of whatever persuasion."

For the first time British Airways Holidays are including Oman in their brochures using the new Boeing 777 twin-jet on the route.

ROBERT HARDING



The Four Seasons in the Caribbean has been voted the world's top resort for its unspoilt beauty and excellent service

Nevis tops resort poll

By Tony Dawe

THE Four Seasons in Nevis, where scores of photographers captured the Princess of Wales splashing in the Caribbean with the young princes, has been voted the world's top resort in the most comprehensive survey of travellers' tastes.

Condé Nast Traveler polled more than 30,000 readers for their views on the best cities, islands, hotels, airlines and resorts and found places as far apart as Aspen and Bangkok winning approval, with honourable mentions for some British hotels.

The Four Seasons outscored many more exclusive destinations to head the list of top 100 resorts, with readers praising its unspoilt beauty and excellent service. The resort sits on a palm-fringed beach with views across a fast-running strait to the undeveloped hills of St Kitts, while behind it rises the tree-clad slopes of the volcanic Mount Nevis.

The resort beat the Inn at Spanish Bay, Pebble Beach, California, and the Ritz-Carlton at Aspen into second and third place. Two hotels in Bangkok, the Shangri-La and redeveloped Oriental on the riverside, were surprise entries in the worldwide top ten, including America. The best-placed European hotel was the Ritz in Paris.

Cunard's *Royal Viking* cruise ship and the Savoy and Claridge's hotels in London made the top 50, with the Royal Crescent, Bath, finishing at 67 in the table.

Other traditional centres of excellence in the British Isles scored well in the foreign hotels section, with high ratings for Adare Manor in Ireland, Gleneagles and St Andrews Old Course hotels in Scotland and the Lygon Arms in the Cotswolds.

The Hotel de Paris, Monte Carlo, with its Belle Epoque decor, modern art therapy centre and views across the harbour, topped the foreign resorts list, with the Mount Kenya Safari Club second.

When it came to favourite islands, the magazine's American-dominated readership opted for places close to home with the Hawaiian islands of Maui and Kauai in the top three. Bermuda came second, with readers praising its accommodation, people and activities. The Isle of Capri's scenery and environment won special praise but it still did not make the top 20.

While the choice of islands might baffle many British travellers, most would probably support the list of cities with the Pacific Rim and European favourites being rated highly. One disappointment for Anglophiles is that British Airways was squeezed out of the list of top ten airlines, finishing eleventh.

TOP CITIES AND FOREIGN HOTELS

1 Sydney	1 Regent, Hong Kong
2 San Francisco	2 Shangri-La, Bangkok
3 Florence	3 Peninsula, Hong Kong
4 Rome	4 Oriental, Bangkok
5 Vienna	5 Ritz, Paris
6 Salzburg	6 Crillon, Paris
7 Paris	7 Mandarin, Hong Kong
8 London	8 Plaza Athenee, Paris
9 Kyoto	9 Bristol, Vienna
10 Vancouver	10 Kowloon Shangri-La

Forte in 45% hotel price cut

By David Churchill

FORTE is cutting the cost of staying at its luxury Paris hotels, including the George V and Plaza Athenee, by up to 45 per cent as a result of sluggish demand caused by the strong franc and terrorist attacks.

The two hotels are among the so-called "trophy" hotels that Granada, which is trying to buy Forte for £3.3 billion, says it will sell off if it succeeds in the takeover. A single room at the Plaza Athenee, for example, will now cost Fr1,200 a room a night, compared to a normal rate of Fr2,300.

The Forte price cuts, which are on offer until next April, are unusual in that they apply all week and not just at weekends when demand is lowest. This reflects the impact that France's recent series of troubles, including this week's industrial unrest, has had on deterring business travellers.

Andrew Duncan, a partner with the hotel consultants Pannell Kerr Forster, says that Parisian hotels are struggling to fill rooms at profitable rates.

"Our research shows that while occupancy rates in the French capital were slowly increasing last year, this was only achieved through sharp discounts. And while occupancy was looking better this year, the market has been hit by incidents which are forcing room rates to be cut again."

But Forte is not alone in trying to stimulate demand in Paris hotels by cutting rates. Concorde Hotels, controlled by the Tattinger champagne family, is also offering savings of between 25 and 35 per cent off published room rates at some of its Paris luxury hotels. And Hyatt and Sheraton are offering reduced weekend rates at their Paris hotels.

Paris Travel Service also has a deal with the Hotel Ritz, excluding Christmas and new year, for a two-night stay at £676 a person, including Eurostar rail travel. This is a saving of £106 a person on the normal short-break price.

HOLIDAYS OF THE WEEK

Christmas break

SHORT bargain breaks just across the Channel in interesting hotels are being offered by Driveline to enable people to have a brief holiday and stock up for Christmas with French wine and food. The best is probably two nights at the Moulin d'Audenfort, a converted watermill 20 miles from Calais, for £89 per person including the ferry crossing. Details: 01707 660011.

Big Apple bite

NEW YORK city breaks from £359 per person both before and after Christmas are on offer from Key to America with scheduled flights on United Airlines. Details: 01784 248777.

Seasonal cruise

CHRISTMAS cruises in the Canaries are available with savings of up to £340 per person from Costa Cruises. Ten nights on the *Costa Riviera*, departing on December 18, are now £825 pe. person for a two-bed inside cabin including port taxes and direct return flights from Gatwick and Manchester. Details: 0171-323 2200.

Another snip

THE PRICE of a pre-Christmas break in the Maldives is coming down week by week. Five nights on the resort island of Reethi Rah, departing Gatwick on December 17, was offered for £499 per person by Kuoni a week ago; now it's £399. Details: 01306 740500.

French leave

SOUTHERN France at Christmas is available from £336 for a family of four from EuroVillages. The price includes studio accommodation for seven nights in the Latitudes holiday village in the Camargue national park, a Dover-Calais ferry crossing and two nights in a hotel en route. Details 01606 734400.

FLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Free tickets

AUSTRAVEL is offering return flights to Australia from Manchester over the Christmas period for £399. Departures on Britannia Airways begin on December 10. Details: 0171-734 7755. Sabena is offering two free tickets for the price of two full or excursion fare tickets on flights between London, Brussels and Antwerp. The offer is valid until March 31 next year. The free tickets must be used by September 1. Details: 0181-780 1444.

German trips

GERMANY can be reached cheaply before Christmas with special excursion fares from British Airways. If you book by next Wednesday and fly before December 16, return excursions to Frankfurt and Hamburg will cost £79, Hanover and Munich £89 and Berlin, Leipzig and Stuttgart £99. Details: 0181-897 4000.

Fares down

BUSINESS-class passengers on Maersk Air can take their spouses with them in December for just 10 per cent of their own fare. For example, a Copenhagen-bound passenger would pay £362 while his or her partner's ticket would cost £36. Details: 0171-333 0066.

Card discounts

NATWEST Access and Visa cardholders qualify for 20 per cent discounts on British Airways low-cost world offer fares. For example, a return ticket to Venice now costs £95 with Nice priced at £100 and Prague available for £116. Details: 0345 664422.

HOTELS OF THE WEEK

Munch time

HILTON National has launched its new winter leisure breaks programme with prices starting at £22.40 a person a night at its 41 UK hotels. The price includes breakfast, and free meals for all under-fives staying with their parents. Details: 0345 581595.

Winter golf

SCOTLAND'S Turnberry Hotel, home of last year's Open golf championship, is guaranteeing that its golf course will escape the snow and frost this winter. If not, then guests get a free night's accommodation and dinner as compensation. The Winter Weather Guarantee golf programme starts tomorrow until March 7 next year and costs £144.75 a person a night at weekends, including dinner and one round of golf. Details: 01655 331000.

You rang, Sir

THE newly refurbished Buckingham wing of London's Charing Cross Hotel now provides guests with a personal butler on a 24-hour basis. Details: 0800 181716.

Close encounter

THE Hyatt Hotel in Birmingham is offering a chance to meet a dancer from the Birmingham Royal Ballet as well as tickets for a performance of *The Nutcracker* at the Hippodrome Theatre. The offer, costing £92 a person for one night, starts on December 9, and includes dinner as well as a backstage tour of the theatre. Details: 0121-643 1234.

Skiers offered smartcard flexibility

By Graham Duffill

AN AUSTRIAN ski resort opens next week with a high-technology lift-ticket system that is likely to become a blueprint for ski resorts around the world, freeing them from traditional constraints and opening them up as winter theme parks.

Bad Kleinkirchheim, in the southern province of Carinthia, has extended the technology that reads smartcards, which let skiers on to the lift, to work in other facilities, such as the swimming pool. Fair-weather skiers or those who want to ski for only a few hours of the day do not then feel they are wasting their costly lift ticket.

Most European resorts now have the technology to "charge" the microchip in a watch or "credit" card with points. Points are then deducted by the lift when the skier passes through. The technology uses radio to "interrogate" the chip from a distance. Watches worn under gloves, or cards kept in pockets, need be within only a metre of a turnstile to open it, reducing the length of lift queues.

Potentially, the new technology will allow lift companies to programme different lifts to take varying numbers of points off the chip, encouraging skiers to avoid peak periods by making them more expensive.

But the ultimate benefit is in allowing the skier to use the lift-pass for other activities.

Wolfgang Eder, tourist director of Bad Kleinkirchheim, or BKK as it is known locally, is trying to persuade winter visitors to look upon the resort as a kind of giant Disney park. "The idea behind it is that people buy one ticket but when the weather is bad, or when they are tired in the afternoon, they use it to go to the spa, or play tennis. There are many people who do not want to ski all day and who want to get good value for money out of their lift ticket. This way you never waste your ticket."

BKK uses the credit card system rather than the wristwatch, and guests can either pay for an all-inclusive ticket for a fixed number of days — this winter it will cost £97 for six days in high season — or pay for the card to be charged with a certain number of points.

The lift pass can be used in the thermal spas, tennis and squash courts, curling rinks and even golf driving range. The system cost BKK £500,000 to install.

Lazio prizewinner

EMYR GRIFFITH of EuroWales, a travel company based at Pentre Bach, Montgomery, specialising in inbound tourism, won a four-day trip to Lazio and Rome in the competition featured in the Special Report on Lazio published in *The Times* on November 2. The draw took place at the Lazio Regional Tourist Board stand at the World Travel Market '95 Exhibition at Earls Court on November 15.

Israel signs tourism deal

By Gill Williams

ISRAEL has joined former enemies in a tourism alliance to encourage travel to and between countries of the Middle East.

The Middle East-Mediterranean Travel and Tourism (Memtta) Agreement follows the recent assassination of Israel's Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin. Signatories include the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey and Cyprus.

Israel's Tourism Minister, Uzi Baram, said the killing had strengthened Israel's determination to join the venture. "Rabin became a fighter for peace and, along with Sadat of Egypt, President Kennedy and Gandhi, was killed for those beliefs. The people of Israel will continue to fight for peace.

"We know that tourism co-operation has been the first step towards peace between warring countries. It is the means to create trust between peoples." Egypt and Jordan have become popular holiday destinations for Israelis since entry rules were relaxed two years ago.

Egypt's Tourism Minister, Mamdouh Beltagi, echoed Israeli calls for Lebanon and Syria to join Memtta. "Peace and tourism are twins. Peace is a condition for the flourishing of tourism and tourism creates better conditions for peace."

Israelis are still banned from entering Tunisia, for many years the base of the exiled PLO, but Tunisia promised it would soon relax visa rules to welcome Israeli package holidaymakers.

One of Memtta's first tasks will be to develop combined flight and cruise holidays in the Gulfs of Aqaba and Suez.

Cities bid for visitors

By Willy Newlands

THE difficult choices facing industrial cities which want to join the tourist boom — the biggest industry in the world come the millennium — were emphasised at a Cultural Tourism Conference in Illetas, Majorca, which issued the Declaration of Majorca this week.

Some cities want to glory in their smokestack history, others want to move on and forget it as quickly as possible. Each side believes it is doing the right thing culturally.

George Sneddon, of Glasgow's economic department, described "dark despair in the rain" as the city's 17 shipyards were reduced to only two, locomotive works and steelworks closed. The move into tourism was about hope and civic pride, he said.

The city's tourist board was not created until 1984. The event which turned Glasgow around was the opening of the Burrell Collection, a new museum which attracted one million people in a year, and the new hope was summed up in the slogan: Glasgow's Miles Better.

WORLD PICTURES



Glasgow moved into tourism out of hope and civic pride

Mr Sneddon said: "What the city has done is create a new image for itself. We are not concentrating on our past, which left large areas derelict. We have built on our success as City of Culture in 1990. We are saying: our music, our drama are now. Come and join the party."

Lindsay Brooks, from Arts About Manchester, said the city was trying to promote a new image, but within the context of its industrial history — ballets were being staged in settings of old machinery and buildings. Arne Ellefors, from Norrkoping, Sweden, site of a vanished textile industry, said there was a need to create a fashionable image so that people feel a visit is doing something important.

The three cities, with others such as Lille and Bilbao, are developing joint marketing strategies which become eligible for 70 per cent EU funding. More than 600,000 ecus (£500,000) has been earmarked for the promotion.

The session president, Professor Jose Vidal-Beneyto of the European Cultural Agency, said that the main problem facing tourism was not just growth, but also the increasingly passive nature of tourists. "We need to launch those cities which are rich in cultural associations or industrial history, but which are not known to the outside world," he said.



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London left to rue preparation

Samoans quick to capitalise on rivals' problems

London 32
Western Samoans 40

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE good, the bad and the plain indifferent of rugby union, English and Samoan, was laid before a threadbare crowd at Twickenham yesterday. For an hour, the Western Samoans left a lumbering London team stumbling in their wake, yet, by the end, like a boxer on the ropes, they were hanging on grimly for the victory that keeps their tour on course.

The time that it took London to make an impact on the game was roughly the time that it took a reconstructed side to find some element of collective form, and left the team management frustrated at the indecision that surrounds the future of this level of representative rugby. "It's pointless putting out a side which isn't given an opportunity to prepare, not only for its own benefit but for England's," Tony Jorden, the chairman of selectors, said.

London, the first of the divisional teams to play the Samoans in the CIS-sponsored series, seek continuity of fixtures and freedom to select who they will. They are already planning a tour to New Zealand's South Island next summer. "Whatever vehicle is chosen to play against incoming tour sides, it has to be fully supported," Jorden said.

On the day, however, London made too many basic mistakes against light-footed opponents, whose use of space was exemplary and whose fourth try was a marvellous example of team support. It was scored by Lima, his third of the match, and featured Filemu twice before the flying wing cut across the grain of the defence to the posts.

Lima is one of the core players of the new-look Samoan team, along with Pat Lam and To'o Vaega, who are among 23 players who have signed letters of commitment to Samoan rugby. Since the World Cup last summer, they have lost seven players to rugby league, another to Japan, and still more to the temptation of New Zealand contracts. "I believe in the cause, in what we are trying to do for the future of Samoan rugby," Lam, an articulate captain, said.

He led by example at Twickenham. As London fumbled for coherence, Lam's pick-up from a scrum paved the way for Lima's first try, and Lam scored the next himself from a well-worked move with Smith. London's cause was not assisted by the sight of Pears limping off at the interval, the victim of a strained ankle that he hopes will have mended by the weekend.

However, the Harlequins stand-off half had made little impression either on the match or on Jack Rowell, the watching England manager. His kicking, at goal and out of hand, lacked direction, and a potentially bright back division was virtually anonymous, though Pears will have realised that Mensah's damaged shoulder had reduced his effect. The centre might have been better advised to have left the field.

The Samoans sewed the game up in the third quarter. The quick-thinking Lima ripped the ball from a reluctant defender, took a quick tapped penalty and darted over, and though the valuable Leaupepe left with a twisted ankle, Lima crossed for what Bryan Williams, their coach, described as the kind of team try that coaches strive for.

At that stage, London went for broke. Snow, playing perhaps his best representative game, Dallaglio and Dunston led the charge, Watson scored his second try, and Dallaglio, defenders hanging off him, crossed as the Samoans faltered under a deluge of penalties; but the points in their bag were already enough.

SCORERS: London: Tries: Watson (2), Dallaglio, Mensah Conversions: Gregory (3). Penalty goals: Pears (2). Western Samoans: Tries: Lima (3), Lam, Vaega. Conversions: Kellett (3). Penalty goals: Kellett (3).

LONDON: J Ufton (Wasps); D O'Leary (Harlequins), N Greenstock (Wasps), P Mensah (Harlequins), A Adebayo (Bath); D Pears (Harlequins), S Bates (Wasps, captain); J Leonard (Harlequins), B Moore (Harlequins), I Dunston (Wasps), L Dallaglio (Wasps), A Snow (Harlequins), M Watson (Harlequins), R Jenkins (Harlequins), A Diprose (Saracens) Pears replaced by G Gregory (Wasps, 40min)

WESTERN SAMOANS: A Autagavaia; B Lima, S Leaega, G Leaupepe, T Faaiuaso; D Kellett, J Filemu; M Mika, T Lelasamava'o, G Lalu, S Smith, M Birtwhistle, P Leavasa, S Kaleta, P Lam (captain) Leavasa replaced by S Valtale (29); Leaupepe replaced by T Vaega (56).

Referee: N Lasaga (France).

MARC ASPLAND



Kaleta, the Samoans' back-row forward, escapes the clutches of Bates, the London captain, yesterday

Bowring appointed to drive Wales forward

THE post of Wales national coach has become something of a hair shirt, but yesterday Kevin Bowring took up the challenge (David Hands writes). He is the third in eight months, after Alan Davies and Alex Evans, but the first full-time coach employed by the Welsh Rugby Union.

Bowring's appointment, that take him up to the conclusion of the 1999 World Cup in Wales, was inevitable if the coaching structure was to mean anything. He will conclude his present job as director of physical education at Clifton College at the end of this term and take up his new post next month.

The names of Clive Griffiths, who coaches the Wales rugby league team, and Clive John, from Pontypridd, were also considered, but Bowring's solid record of achievement in the past six years, with the Welsh under-20, under-21 and A teams, served to turn his caretaker role against Fiji earlier this month into a permanent appointment.

Bowring, 41, has spent most of his senior career in England. A native of Neath, he was a student at Borough Road College and played as a perceptive No 8 for London Welsh, whom he captained for three years, for nine seasons. He also appeared five times for the Barbarians.

"The post of Welsh coach is probably one of the most professional jobs in world rugby," Bowring said. "It has been an ambition of mine since 1990 and it's an extremely exciting challenge."

Pierre Villepreux will be recommended today for the post of France team manager by André Herrero, who resigned from the role earlier this month. However, the former full back is considered unlikely to receive the support of Bernard Lapasset, the French federation president.

Cottrell hopes to survive injury scare

Cambridge University .. 35
Steele-Bodger's XV..... 29

BY PETER BILLS

STEVE COTTRELL, the New Zealander who is captaining Cambridge University this year, left the field in the second half of this traditional pre-University match fixture with a twisted knee.

Cottrell, who withdrew on the morning of the University match last year, suffered the injury in a tackle 12 minutes into the second half at Grange Road. He hopes that it will not threaten his place at Twickenham.

Cambridge suffered a spate of injuries causing immense disruption, but they were good enough to cope, squeezing home by six points in a thoroughly entertaining game of ten tries. The winning margin was two goals, three tries and two penalty goals to two goals and three tries.

It was always a fast, competitive game and the visitors played their part splendidly. Cambridge deserved great credit for lifting themselves mentally only five days after their fine victory over the Western Samoans, and they looked a quick, neat and organised side with plenty of scoring potential.

GRANGE ROAD DETAILS

SCORERS: Cambridge University: Tries: Maslen (2), Rutter, Ashforth, Sexton. Conversions: Ashforth (2). Penalty goals: Ashforth (2). Steele-Bodger's XV: Tries: Hogan (3), Poole, Morrison. Conversions: Burke (2).

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: O Clayton (Eton and Homerton); S Sexton (Dublin HS and Hughes Hall), A Spencer (Priestley College and St John's), S Cottrell (Christ's Coll, NZ, and St Edmund's, captain), J Rutter (Chislehurst and Sidcup GS and Magdalene); R Ashforth (Bradford GS and Peterhouse), D Maslen (Randcombe's and St Edmund's); L Mooney (St Benetrace College and Hughes Hall), J Edwards (Coopers and Coborn and St Catharine's), N Holgate (Armthorpe CS and Robinson), M Hyde (St Ignatius Coll, Sydney, and St Edmund's), R Bramley (Queen Elizabeth's, Wakefield and St Edmund's), D Ruffell (Chosen Hill and Homerton), S Surridge (St Kentigern College, Auckland, and Wolfson), J Cocks (Newington Coll, Sydney, and St Edmund's). Clayton replaced by D Moore (Coleraine Institute and Trinity Hall, 38min); Hyde replaced by G Fury (Diocesan College Cape Town and Hughes Hall, 41min) Cottrell replaced by T Whitford (The Leys, Cambridge and Homerton, 52min); Whitford replaced by B Ryan (Wimbledon College and Homerton, 65min)

STEELE-BODGER'S XV: I C Glasgow (Heriot's FP); A Jones (Harlequins), M Denney (Bristol), N Beal (Northampton), R Davies (Harlequins); P Burke (Cork Constitution and Ireland), N Hogan (Terenure College and Ireland); G Halpin (London Irish and Ireland), J Hay (Hawick and Scotland), M Linnett (Worcester), C Gibson (Gloucester), M Haag (Bath), M Poole (Leicester), I Morrison (London Scottish and Scotland, captain), R Pool-Jones (Wasps). R Earnshaw (Yarm School, North Yorkshire and St John's) temporary replacement for Pool-Jones.

Referee: D Chapman (Yorkshire)

University matches frequently confound predictions, but the Bowring Bowl seems in secure hands. The Light Blues' greater power up front and quality in the back row ought to give Oxford considerable problems at Twickenham. Cambridge also seem to possess the greater poise and control in their play.

The students had much to live up to for a cluster of Old Blues had returned to see C. M. H. (Mike) Gibson unveil an honours board plaque in the pavilion. It was Gibson's first visit to Grange Road for 18 years and he saw the university concede an early 17-0 lead as Hogan, Poole and Morrison scored tries in the first 23 minutes.

The Light Blues, though, revived with speed and panache, the elusive Rutter getting their first try followed, on half-time, by Maslen's first of the afternoon.

Cambridge edged ahead with Ashforth's try three minutes after the interval, but Steele-Bodger's XV quickly replied with two tries by Hogan for a 29-20 advantage.

The inter-passing and support play of the invitation side was impressive, but Cambridge's greater pace finally clinched it. Sexton and Maslen adding further tries to put the university clear.

IN BRIEF

US look to Kite for Ryder Cup inspiration

TOM KITE was confirmed yesterday as captain of the United States Ryder Cup golf team for the 1997 match in Valderrama, Spain.

"This is the start of what will be a dream come true for the next couple of years, being captain of the Ryder Cup team," Kite said. "The No 1 responsibility, going beyond the sportsmanship and the tradition, is to get that Cup back over here where it belongs, in the United States."

The United States lost the Cup to Europe 14½-13½ in September at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, New York.

India's series

Cricket: India beat New Zealand by six wickets in their sixth and final one-day international in Bombay yesterday, avenging a crushing defeat in the previous match and wrapping up the series 3-2. New Zealand were bowled out for 126 in 35 overs, a total that India overhauled with 18 overs to spare.

Price on course

Bowls: John Price, holder of the CIS Masters title, comfortably beat Richard Corsie, the Commonwealth champion, 7-1, 7-2, in the semi-finals at Coatbridge yesterday. Andy Thomson was made to fight all the way before defeating Paul Conlan 7-3, 1-7, 7-1.

Gregory wins

Squash: Paul Gregory, the former British national champion who now plays for Greece, breezed into the quarter-finals of the Qatar international championship in Doha yesterday by defeating Mir Zaman Gul, of Pakistan, 15-6, 15-8, 15-10.

Dane goes down

Badminton: Poul-Erik Hoyer-Larsen, 30, from Denmark, the All-England champion, lost to Ong Ewe Hock, of Malaysia, 15-8, 15-8 in the first round of the world grand prix final in Singapore yesterday.

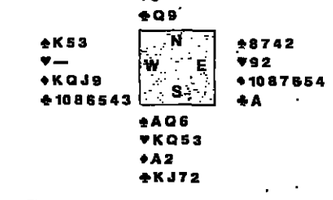
No more tickets

Cricket: The Texaco Trophy one-day international between England and India at the Oval next summer is already sold out. Tickets for the match, on May 23, were snapped up within just four weeks.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer South **Love-all** **Match-pointed pairs**



Contract: Six Hearts by South **Lead: King of Diamonds**

This is a hand from one of the annual auction pairs held at the St John's Wood Bridge Club. Last year, there was £7,000 in prize-money. The event is to be held this year on December 14 (telephone details: 0171-286 7465).

At tables where South opened the bidding with One Heart, South became the declarer in Six Hearts and West led the king of diamonds. Those who went off drew trumps ending in hand and played a small club towards the queen, hoping to bring down the ten and eight of clubs in three rounds and thus avoid the spade finesse.

The flaw in that line is that, if East has the ace of clubs, he will win and return a spade and South will not have a chance to test the clubs first. Not that it mattered — after this start, the contract was bound to go off anyway.

If you had had no other chances, the best play in the club suit to make three tricks is to finesse the nine on the first round. That is not right here though, with the spade finesse in reserve.

When Roman Smolski, one of the previous winners, played the hand, he noticed two club discards from West on the first two trumps. Drawing the inference that East was short in clubs, he crossed to dummy with a third trump and led the nine of clubs. When East had to win with the ace of clubs, declarer was then able to discard dummy's two losing spades on the king and jack of clubs. If West had had the ace, Smolski would still have had time to test the clubs before taking a spade finesse.

☐ In future, the refresher column will be published on Fridays.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Wade wins

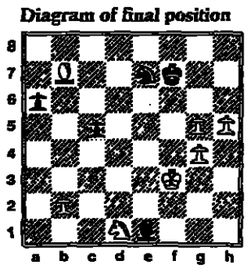
Great Britain's representative at the fifth world senior championship in Bad Liebenzell, Germany, was Bob Wade, from London, the former British champion and international master. Wade acquitted himself honourably. For much of the time, he was within striking distance of the leaders, and he eventually finished with the substantial plus score of 7½ out of 11. In the following game, Wade competently outplays his opponent to score a comprehensive victory.

White: Wade
Black: Skarke
World senior championship
Bad Liebenzell, 1995

Schmidt Benoni

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nc3	c5
3	d5	d6
4	e4	g6
5	f4	Bg4
6	Nf3	Nbd7
7	h3	Bxf3
8	Qxf3	Bg7
9	a4	0-0
10	Be2	Rc8
11	0-0	a6
12	a5	Ne8
13	g4	e6
14	Bc4	Qe7
15	Bd2	g5
16	fxg5	Nc7
17	dxe6	fxe6
18	Qe2	Bd4+
19	Kg2	Qg7
20	Rxf8+	Rxf8
21	Rf1	Ne5
22	Rxf8+	Qxf8
23	Nd1	Ng6
24	c3	Be5
25	Qf2	Nf4+
26	Bxf4	Qxf4
27	Qxf4	Bxf4
28	h4	d5
29	exd5	exd5
30	Bd3	Ne6
31	c4	Bc7
32	Bf5	Kf7
33	cxd5	Nf4+
34	Kf3	Nxd5
35	Bxh7	Bxa5
36	Be4	Ne7
37	Bxb7	Be1
38	h5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



New title

At the Fide congress in Paris last week, a new title was created to recognise the achievements of those who have been most active in the organisation of international chess competitions. Con Power became the first recipient of the new title of international organiser. Also awarded the title were Richard Furness, Stewart Reuben and Gerry Walsh.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CHAMPIAN
a. A Highland champion
b. Open country
c. Legal conspiracy

COLCHICUM
a. Meadow-saffron
b. An edible snail
c. A Cossack helmet

CURRACK
a. A race course
b. A freelance spearman
c. Horse baskets

CARICOUS
a. Figlike
b. With decaying teeth
c. Semolina and meat stew

Answers on page 46

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Witolinsch — Gaidanov, Riga 1979. Although White is a piece down in this ending, he has great pressure on the open f- and g-files with his rooks. How did he make the most of this?



Solution on page 46

SPORTS LETTERS

Business needs to follow sport's example

From Mr Dwight Lawrence

Sir, Youth crime today costs Britain £7 billion a year. I had the privilege to attend the launch of the Youth Charter for Sport (YCS) in Manchester (report, November 24) and, as a black professional specialising in business and equality issues, I experienced a sense of excitement and fear.

It was exciting to see how Geoff Thompson, five times world karate champion, has been a driving force, binding business, Government and other agencies together to raise £1 million for a variety of community projects. This is a type of working model that has yet to fulfil its potential in making a full impact on society and I know that the projects will produce young men and women who will become winners and inspirations for their communities.

My fear for the disadvantaged youth and particularly the future black youth (who in some areas of the United Kingdom will soon comprise up to 25 per cent of the key labour market) is that the key focus in developing "winners" from this area of society is still on the sporting, arts and entertainment fields.

Businesses, Government and our communities are missing a trick. We need to activate the phrase "Business in the Community" because the local communities and individuals have much to offer business and therefore the economy. We all recognise that we need to develop the kind of leadership among the youth that will serve our communities for generations. However, business and Government need to demonstrate the kind of leadership that will serve our youth and manage the diversity in our culture.

I applaud the YCS: they have forged a path for developing winners. However, there are many other organisations that have also developed models of success to assist the local young community in becoming the societal and business leaders of the future. Let's learn now and earn the benefits now.

My fear is that if we do not and we ignore the full benefits of linking business, Government and community that the children of today's youth will lack tomorrow's champions.

Sincerely,
DWIGHT LAWRENCE,
41 Merchants Quay,
Salford,
Manchester.

Angler's Charter

From the Shadow Minister for Sport

Sir, Brian Clarke (November 28) made clear that the leadership of the angling bodies seemed to be at odds with their membership.

However, one highly relevant point should be added, namely that the aims and aspirations of the angling fraternity have already been met by the Labour Party in its Angler's Charter.

The charter not only set out Labour's support for the sport, but also clarified in detail issues such as environmental protection, funding, the close season, codes of conduct and many other important angling concerns.

It is, therefore, all the more surprising that those who lead the anglers should be taking their present course of action and formalising links with hunting organisations. It is to be hoped that in future they will take more notice of their members' views.

Yours sincerely,
TOM PENDRY,
House of Commons.

Look abroad

From Mr Clive P. Ashford

Sir, The Lawn Tennis Association's efforts in getting back to the grass roots (report, November 22) are to be applauded.

However, throwing money at the problem, although a help, is not the answer. Coaches from abroad should be employed, eg, from Sweden, Germany or Spain, who have worked with world-class top-ten players, up to a maximum of five years ago (any more and they will not be in touch with the game being played now), instead of the poor quality coaches who are at present involved in the United Kingdom.

In addition, these coaches should not have to gain qualifications from the LTA. This is not only insulting to them, but also calls into question whether this is a contravention of European law on the free movement of labour within the European Union. As I understand it, this gives any tennis professional from within the European Union the right to be employed in Britain.

With these coaches lies the only way for us to produce a Wimbledon champion. United Kingdom coaches seem just to want to go through the motions of being a tennis coach and get themselves a coaching position. They feel that taking a player up to county level is a major achievement, but British county level, when compared with the rest of the world, is nowhere.

In five years, a beginner can be taken up to world-class, top-ten level, but so far I have met only one coach in the United Kingdom who has the right attitude and the commitment to realise this.

The talent is out there at grass-roots level, but it requires world-class coaches to nurture it and take it all the way.

Yours truly,
CLIVE P. ASHFORD,
(Kent county tennis coaches committee),
115 Calvert Road,
Greenwich, SE10.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Expand use of videos

From Mr Roy Ritchie

Sir, The Scottish Football Association recently announced its willingness to consider video evidence in respect of foul play not seen or reported by match officials. This appears a sensible move in attempting to eradicate foul play. However, the use of video film should be expanded to include other areas.

Miniature cameras should be installed in goalpost uprights and crossbar to confirm whether or not the ball crossed the goalline. If the referee and linesman are unsighted, the game can be stopped while the fourth official reviews video film from these cameras. If the ball did not cross the line, a goal kick is awarded to the defending team.

Match officals do make mistakes and, in two recent matches (Manchester United v Coventry City and Real Madrid v Ajax), film evidence clearly showed that the ball had crossed the line, but a goal was not awarded.

If players' conduct is to be assessed by cameras, then it is only fair that match officials' performances should be similarly scrutinised.

Yours etc.,
R. RITCHIE,
10 Lochgreen Avenue,
Troon, Ayrshire.

A tough world

From Mr Michael Dalton

Sir, Rob Hughes (November 24) says that many footballers will ask what all the fuss is about after the Le Saux-Batty incident. Anyone in the world of business will explain that partners and fellow directors often "have a go" at each other in their private meetings. It is a tough old world, and we have to sort the men (the winners) from the boys (the losers) somehow.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DALTON,
1a Mengham Road,
Hayling Island, Hampshire.

هكذا من الاصل

Dunwoody firmly committed to Ireland

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

The staff at Stansted and Birmingham airports have been seeing a lot of Richard Dunwoody in the last six months. Mind you, they have to be up early to do so. Departures, starting at 5am, have become commonplace for the champion jockey. His feverish trawl for winners, with its consequent pressures and sacrifices, is being scaled down. The workload, however, is not.

This season, Dunwoody has been crossing the Irish Sea with the frequency of the Holyhead ferry. Today, it is Thurles racecourse in Co Tipperary. Tomorrow, he goes to Sandown and, after riding at the same track again on Saturday, he flies back to Ireland for Fairyhouse's Sunday meeting.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: GOING AROUND (1.40 Windsor)
Next best: *Dominie* (1.10 Windsor)

Dunwoody has loosened his grip on trying to retain his title and, despite all the travelling and the constant threat of injury, he is now enjoying his racing more than ever.

He said: "It's still a six-day-week job and I am riding as much as ever, but it is easier now. The pressure of the championship and constantly chasing winners has gone."

He had had enough of that intensity last May. With the advent of summer jumping, and wanting the freedom to ride in the United States or Ireland during the summer, it was inevitable that Dunwoody would split from Martin Pipe. "I wanted to ease back a bit. During the summer, Dermot Weld and Edward O'Grady started giving me rides and one thing led to another. There is no retainer with either of them, just an agreement, and I am delighted with the way things have gone," he said.

Dunwoody has ridden 29 winners in Ireland this season, putting him in third place in the table behind the runaway leader, Charlie Swan. Those winners have included high-class horses like Sound Man and Merry Gale, who have helped to make the travelling worthwhile.

Typically, Dunwoody plays down the travel factor. "Going to Ireland is probably less stressful than riding in the north of England. I went to Catterick recently and found again that you can't depend on the motorways. There were three separate accidents on the way home and a three-hour journey was turned into four," he reported.

Nevertheless, Dunwoody is cementing his Irish connection and hopes to purchase an apartment in Naas, 20 miles south of Dublin, early next month. Up to now, overnight stays have been spent with friends such as Mick O'Toole, the Curragh trainer.

Dunwoody may find Irish racing enjoyable, but he is under no illusions about the seriousness with which the local riders view their jobs.

"It's very competitive. If anything, I think the racing is tighter in Ireland. There are less meetings so the top jockeys are almost always against each other and when push comes to shove you have to be able to hold your position. I've always enjoyed riding in Ireland. Racecourse atmospheres are similar wherever you go but I feel the Irish crowds tend to be more knowledgeable about the game. They really are very keen about racing, both in Ireland and England," Dunwoody said.

Edward O'Grady is an Irish trainer who strongly believes that the affection is reciprocated. "I think that no public in the world appreciates a great horse or jockey more than the Irish and I believe they realise they are privileged to see Richard in action, not only at our premier tracks but at some of our lesser ones too," he said.

O'Grady sends Sound Man to Sandown on Saturday for the Mitsubishi Shogun Chase and he believes Dunwoody's presence on the horse is a plus factor. "His knowledge of both his own horse and the opposition is unbelievable. Throw in his dedication, his ability to work and phenomenal natural talent and I suppose you have genius," O'Grady added.

Dunwoody's contentment with his new regime has also been helped by not having to fight the scales constantly. "My weight has settled down at 10st 4lb and I can ride at that comfortably. I find it makes all the difference," he said.

At 31 and with nothing to prove, Dunwoody's priority is to enjoy his racing and his Irish connections are an important part of that aim.

For the foreseeable future, early travellers at Stansted and Birmingham will continue to see Dunwoody stride purposefully for the next plane to Ireland.

MARTIN LYNCH



Dunwoody is reunited with Sound Man for the Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown on Saturday

Layers and ROA at odds over betting tax figures

By Julian Muscat

BOOKMAKERS yesterday railed against the view, expressed in racing circles, that there was scope for both an increase in levy and a decrease in punters' deductions in the wake of the 1 per cent cut in betting duty announced in the Budget on Tuesday.

Figures produced by the Racehorse Owners' Association (ROA) maintained that bookmakers collected in excess of their duty and levy liabilities from the 10 per cent deduction charged to punters as "betting tax". But Tom Kelly, director-general of the Betting Office Licensees' Association (Bola), insisted the data was inaccurate.

"It fails to recognise the real burden of betting duty," Kelly said. "Until yesterday, duty was charged at 7.75 per cent but the actual figure is more like 8.5 per cent. There is no surplus. In fact, the liability for betting shops with high levels of turnover works out at a fraction more than 10 per cent."

A number of important factors serve to dilute Bola's argument. The reduction in betting duty means that high-turnover shops will make a small profit on punters' deductions even if the rate is lowered from 10 to 9 per cent. Bola's equation is based on shops with high turnover. But because levy is paid on a sliding scale, the liability for smaller shops is significantly less. And Bola's argument operates on the basis that all punters pay tax on their stake. That is not the case.

Other factors suggest there is surplus fat from which bookmakers can draw. Bola's equation applies only to wagers struck on horse racing — which account for around 75 per cent of betting turnover. In the ever-burgeoning sports betting market, the maximum duty paid by high-turnover shops is around 8.5 per cent. Yet punters remain "taxed" at 10 per cent.

There is also the not inconsiderable sum retained by bookmakers in unclaimed winnings. And bookmakers defend their right to pass on, through deductions from punters, their non-recoverable VAT burden. However, an influential Home Affairs Committee report on the levy, published four years ago, was scathing of the practice, describing it as "entirely indefensible."

The committee was equally insistent on bookmakers' description of the 10 per cent deduction as a betting tax. "To call bookmakers' deductions 'tax' is at the least disingenuous, at worst less than honest," the report said.

Neither the bookmakers nor the British Horseracing Board was yesterday in any hurry to open negotiations on how the £65 million is to be carved up.

LEICESTER

THUNDERER

12.30 Ocean Hawk
1.00 Reine De La Chasse
1.30 Soul Trader
2.00 Mr Flanagan
2.30 Duke Of Lancaster
3.00 HAZARD A GUESS (nap)
3.30 Sassiver

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.30 OCEAN HAWK.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO FIRM (HURDLES) SIS

12.30 BEGINNERS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div I: 3-Y-O: £2,637: 2m) (18 runners)

101	0153	OCEAN HAWK 15 (D) (Miss J Bradburne) N Twiston-Davies 11-5	C Llewellyn	(3)
102		ALL OVER RED ROVER (G Roberts) A Carroll 10-12	W Marston	–
103		BIASED VIEW 5F (HalfPint Racing) R Thompson 10-12	V Smith	–
104	U	BOURDONNER 15 (Million In Mind) W Jenks 10-12	T Jenks	–
105		CLEAN EDGE 240F (H Chan) M Tompkins 10-12	D Gallagher	–
106		EL DON 9F (D Morris) M Ryan 10-12	J Ryan	–
107	P	EMBEZZLER 16 (R Taylor) S Gollings 10-12	D Bentley	–
108	R0	JUST BY CHANCE 5F (Duchdream Stud) A Barrow 10-12	NON-RUNNER	
109		PARKLIFE 154F (D Crolly) P Haslam 10-12	M Foster	–
110	0	XAIPETE 19 (Mrs S Moore) 6 Moore 10-12	J Callaghan	71
111	0	ZINGBAR 47 (D Hodgin) J Bradley 10-12	Guy Lewis (5)	–
112	2352	CUILLIN CAPER 23 (I Watson) T Watson 10-7	J R Kavanagh	(3) –
113		FORTUNES ROSE 39F (Mrs A Garrett) J King 10-7	G Upton	–
114	PSP	HUSH CROSS 15 (P Wigtsman) S Knight 10-7	S Burrough	54
115		LADY KATE 16F (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 10-7	R Guest	–
116	6	LAST LAUGH 18 (C Eden Ltd) M Pipe 10-7	D Bridgwater	81
117	35	PEDALTOTHEMETAL 12 (G Harris) P Mitchell 10-7	G Tormey (3)	93
118	F	PHILS FORTUNE 40D (Eighton Construction) K Bridgwater 10-7	D Leahy	–
119		SALFRILL 171F (R Brazier) Mrs P Sly 10-7	R Marley	–

BETTING: 7-2 Ocean Hawk, 5-1 Last Laugh, 6-1 Clean Edge, 8-1 Pedaltothemetal, 10-1 Cuillin Caper, 12-1 El Don, 16-1 others.

1994: PLUNDER BAY 10-12 A Maguire (3-1) D Nicholson 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

OCEAN HAWK 7¼l 3rd of 13 to Paddy's Return in juvenile hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good) with PEDALTOTHEMETAL (3lb better off) 9l 5th. PARKLIFE fated Flat effort 25l1 5th of 17 to Green's Bid in ladies handicap at Carlisle (7f, firm). XAIPETE 20l 8th of 20 to Done Well in juvenile hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). CUILLIN CAPER 16l1 2nd of 12 to Asking in juvenile hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). LAST LAUGH 27l 6th of 12 to Talk Back (later placed 2nd) in juvenile hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to soft). PEDALTOTHEMETAL 9l 3rd of 15 to Kilcoran Bay in juvenile hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). Selection: OCEAN HAWK (nap)

1.00 BEGINNERS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(Div II: 3-Y-O: £2,637: 2m) (18 runners)

201		21 PROPHETS HONOUR 7 (D,F) (S Dinsmore) P Haslam 11-5	M Foster	93
202		0 BARK'N'BITE 19 (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 10-12	P Niven	–
203		COURT JOKER 40F (Court Jokers) Miss H Knight 10-12	J F Titley	–
204		0 ELITE JUSTICE 7 (Elite Racing) N Tinkler 10-12	C Llewellyn	–
205		FLORISMART 66F (Mrs D Baugh) B Baugh 10-12	Gary Lyons	–
206		0 LAAL 19 (M Barraclough) M Barraclough 10-12	S McNeill	–
207		026 MAGICAL BID 15 (B) (G Fry) J Bradley 10-12	Guy Lewis (3)	85
208		4 MIGHT TIME 47 (J Palmer-Brown) D Sherwood 10-12	J A McCarthy	85
209		PARK RIDGE 94F (Mrs T Mills) T Mills 10-12	G Bradley	–
210		6F PATS LADS 40 (J O'Malley) D Burchell 10-12	J Prior (7)	–
211		6 SLAPY DAM 28 (BF) (Rose And Crown, Boylestone) J Mackie 10-12	T Eley	88
212		5 THE COTTONWOOD KID 10F (T Harrington) T Caldwell 10-12	Pat Caldwell	76
213		0 TO PROVE A POINT 19 (J J O'Neill) J J O'Neill 10-12	A Roche (3)	–
214		35 TOSHIBA TALK 18 (Toshiba UK Ltd) B Ellison 10-12	B Harding (3)	
215		5 FOREST MILL 7 (Non-Stop Promotions & Marketing Ltd) J Spearing 10-7	J Lodder	82
216		5 LAST SPIN 47 (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 10-7	J Ralston	–
217		20 QUALITAIR PRIDE 28 (Qualitair Holdings Ltd) J Bottomley 10-7	D Byrne	83
218		5 REINE DE LA CHASSE 16 (BF) (Million In Mind) D Nicholson 10-7	W Marston	98

BETTING: 3-1 Reine De La Chasse, 4-1 Prophets Honour, 6-1 Might Time, 8-1 Court Joker, 10-1 Slapy Dam, Last Spin, Toshiba Talk, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

PROPHETS HONOUR beat Yacht 3l in 15-runner juvenile hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm) MAGICAL BID 25l1 2nd of 16 to Roy River in selling juvenile hurdle at Worcester (2m, good) on penultimate start with PATS LADS behind when fell 4th. MIGHT TIME 99l1 4th of 15 to Volunteer in juvenile hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm) with LAST SPIN 24l1 5th. SLAPY DAM 12l 6th to Asking in 12-runner juvenile hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). TOSHIBA TALK rack 2nd 21l3 3rd to Royale Angela in 15-runner juvenile hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start. REINE DE LA CHASSE 61l1 5th to Circassus in 20-runner juvenile hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good). Selection: REINE DE LA CHASSE

1.30 BARKBY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,075: 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

301	000/5-FP	OLD MONEY 27 (G) (Uncle Jacks Pub) C Broad 9-12-0	W Marston	–
302	35/P85-5	SHAMSHOM AL ARAB 7 (F,G) (Mrs S Ellison) B Ellison 7-11-12	Miss V Haigh	83
303	60/02-5	TARGET LINE 28 (D,BF,S) (Brampton Royal Oak) Mrs S Smith 5-11-5	R Wilkinson (7)	93
304	044/30-1	SOUL TRADER 17 (CD,D,S) (E Hackding) N Babbage 6-11-5	B Hogan (3)	86
305	13/60-0P	HAWTHORNE GLEN 9 (F) (Mrs G Dawson) Mrs M Long 8-11-3	D Gallagher	92
306	14200-5	LUKS AKURA 17 (V,D,S) (Middleton Scriven Ltd) W Clay 7-11-1	J Lodder	96
307	00/3P-05	MASTER GLEN 10F (B) (R Cook) G Oldroyd 7-11-0	P Midgley (3)	92
308	0683-60	EDWARD SEYMOUR 15 (S) (W Jenks) W Jenks 8-10-12	Mr R Barton (7)	–
309	41400-5	KLONDIKE 14 (V,S) (R Brazier) Mrs P Sly 5-10-12	R Marley	85
310	P04/360	SMART DEBUTANTE 14 (F) (J Pointing) Miss S Wilton 5-10-11	M Kohlscheen (7)	90
311	4/345P4	PENARTH 12 (F) (B Davies) R Price 9-10-4	T Jenks	87
312	00P-0P3	CLOD HOPPER 18 (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 5-10-4	Philip Hughes (7)	80
313	000P-53	QUICK DECISION 19 (V) (Mrs E Cresswell) J Cresswell 4-10-2	R Massey (5)	81
314	00000	CHANCE ENCOUNTER 12 (B) (I Abrahams) Mrs S Williams 5-10-0	C Maude	85
315	P/P065-3	ITS GRAND 15 (Avon & West Racing) J Bradley 6-10-0	Guy Lewis (3)	88
316	0-52805	HARD TO GET 35 (G) (Mrs C Stokell) M Barraclough 8-10-0	Ann Stokell	98
317	440/30	KINGSWOOD KITCHENS 12 (F,B) (S Bruce) A Carroll 15-10-0	D Bridgwater	–

Long handicap: Its Grand 9-13, Hard To Get 9-6, Kingswood Kitchens 9-0.

BETTING: 3-1 Soul Trader, 4-1 Luks Akura, 6-1 Penarth, 8-1 Shamshom Al Arab, 10-1 Target Line, Clod Hopper, Its Grand, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

TARGET LINE 10l 2nd of 17 to Far Out in selling handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. SOUL TRADER beat Cavina neck in 6-runner novices handicap hurdle over course and distance (good).CLOD HOPPER 9l 3rd of 11 to Krayzr in selling handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to firm). Selection: SOUL TRADER (nap)

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Early favourite

BARTON BANK has been made 4-1 favourite by William Hill to gain compensation for last year's last-fence fall in the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. Other prices: 9-2 Merry Gale, 6-1 Sound Man, 7-1 Dublin Flyer, Master Oats, 8-1 Martha's Son, One Man, 12-1 bar.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robarson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — stopped up. R — refused. D — disqualified) Horse's name. Days since last outing: J jt jumps, F fl flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

2.00 SILVER BELL HANDICAP CHASE (£5,090: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

401	1-11FP	WISE APPROACH 8 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Gent K Bailey 8-12-0	S McNeill	(3)
402	PFP-43	BISHOPS ISLAND 5F (S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 9-11-7	J F Titley	88
403	1R151-F	MR FLANAGAN 14 (G,S) (Mrs R Stanley) C Brooks 9-11-7	G Bradley	95
404	131F1/3-	CORRARDER 434 (D,F,S) (Mrs E S-Osbourne) J Old 11-11-0	Mr J Smyth-Osbourne	90
405	512142	PHILIP'S WOODY 18 (B,D,F,S,S) (B Wiseton) N Henderson 7-10-10	J R Kavanagh	94
406	255/36-4	LITTLE TOM 16 (D,F,G,S) (M O'Connor) J King 10-10-7	G Upton	89
407	5F431-P	LANDSKER MISSILE 14 (S) (Mrs J Wates) M Pipe 6-10-5	D Bridgwater	91
408	322413-	CHICHELL'S HURST 194 (D,F,S) (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 9-10-2	R Marley	93

BETTING: 5-2 Mr Flanagan, 3-1 Bishops Island, 5-1 Philip's Woody, 6-1 Wise Approach, 8-1 Corrarder, Little Tom, 12-1 others.

1994: MR ENTERTAINER 11-10-12 M Fitzgerald (4-1) N Gaselee 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

WISE APPROACH best effort when completing double to beat Romany Creek 1½l in 5-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to firm). BISHOPS ISLAND 16¼l 3rd of 5 to Stop The Waiter in handicap chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. MR FLANAGAN beat Opo Song 1l in 12-runner handicap chase at Chepstow (3m, good to soft) on penultimate start, March 1995. PHILIP'S WOODY 3½l 2nd of 4 to The Carrot Man in handicap chase at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to firm) LITTLE TOM 37l 4th of 8th to Northern Saddler in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m 110yd, soft). LANDSKER MISSILE beat Maestro Paul 25l in 8-runner novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start. CHICHELL'S HURST 11l 3rd of 9 to Magdood in handicap chase at Fakenham (2m 5f 110yd, good). Selection: PHILIP'S WOODY

2.30 JOHN O'GAUNT MAIDEN CHASE
(£2,832: 3m) (6 runners)

501	3053-P5	AIRTRAK 14 (Amtrak, Express Parcels) N Henderson 6-11-2	J R Kavanagh	–
502	003-0	DRUIMCULLEN 54 (M Booth) K Bailey 6-11-2	S McNeill	–
503	0/0P0-52	DUKE OF LANCASTER 26 (Hunt Allen Partners) Mrs. J Pitman 6-11-2	W Marston	(3)
504	/0600/4	FRENCH MYLE 22 (J Brown) C Mann 7-11-2	J Railton	–
505	00/FP5-	POND HOUSE 262 (C Frost) M Pipe 6-11-2	Jamie Evans	–
506	PO/SP	WAR FLOWER 12 (G) (S Broad) A Carroll 7-10-11	R Davis	–

BETTING: 8-11 Duke Of Lancaster, 4-1 Pond House, 5-1 Druimcullen, 6-1 Airtrak, 25-1 War Flower, 33-1 French Myle.

1994: BROWNHALL 6-11-0 A Maguire (7-4) D Nicholson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

AIRTRAK distant 5th of 11 to Sharp Performer in novices handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good). DRUIMCULLEN 88l 8th of 11 to Addington Boy in novice chase at Bangor (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). DUKE OF LANCASTER 14l 2nd of 4 to The Bud Club in novice chase at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, good to firm). SASSIVER beat SALISONE (6lb better off) 4l in 9-runner conditionals handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good). STEADFAST ELITE beat Buckley Boys 1¾l in 9-runner selling hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good) Selection: SASSIVER

3.00 KNIGHTON NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,225: 2m) (20 runners)

601		1 KARSHI 14 (D,S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 5-11-5	J F Titley	(3)
602		1 MR BUREAUCRAT 26 (D,F) (S Clarke) M Pipe 6-11-5	D Bridgwater	(3)
603	05-P	BHAVNAGAR 19 (E Benyl) B Ellison 4-10-12	B Harding	(3)
604		BRIGHT MOVEMBER 438F (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 4-10-12	S Curran	(3)
605		0 CHARLIESMEDARLIN 17 (Middleton Scriven Investments) W Clay 4-10-12	J Lodder	–
606	4-20	CHILLY LAD 40 (V) (Extraman Ltd) M Ryan 4-10-12	J Ryan	(3)
607	5-54	DIVERTIMIENTO 14 (B Wood) J Mackie 4-10-12	E Husband	(3)
608	U-	DUAS 132F (T Long) J Jenkins 6-10-12	G Bradley	–
609		3 HAZARD A GUESS 20 (Mrs D Bidley) Mrs J Remsden 5-10-12	R Garritty	98
610		P KINDAKOOLA 13 (D Cooper) M Chapman 4-10-12	W Worthington	–
611		5 KINGDOM OF SHADES 380 (R Ogden) A Turnell 5-10-12	P Carberry	92
612	00-	MAMMOON 42F (B) (Lucky Seven Racing) W Clay 4-10-12	J Railton	–
613	2/	SIMPLY SUPERB 838 (T Walker) W Clay 5-10-12	P Carty (5)	–
614		SOMMERSBY 17F (A Peake) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-12	S Wynne	–
615		42 STAR PERFORMER 40 (BF) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 4-10-12	P Niven	98
616	P-	STYLISH BLAKE 29S (J Dowey) R Hollinshead 6-10-12	M W Martin	–
617		0 WEEHEBY 14 (DANA Partners) M Barraclough 6-10-12	S McNeill	87
618	/0-2	WILL I FLY 18 (F) (Mrs D Foster) J Long 9-10-12	D Gallagher	82
619		JEMIMA PUDDLEDUCK 10F (Principal Racing) A Streeter 4-10-7	T Eley	–
620	10-	MISS OPTIMIST 232 (F) (Plough Partners) D Nicholson 5-10-7	W Marston	–

BETTING: 5-2 Karshi, 3-1 Hazard A Guess, 6-1 Mr Bureaucrat, 8-1 Kingdom Of Shades, 10-1 Bright November, Star Performer, 12-1 Miss Optimist, 16-1 others.

1994: PERSIAN BRAVE 4-10-12 N Mann (1-7 fav) M Bell 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

KARSHI beat Sir Leonard 4l in 16-runner novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good). MR BUREAUCRAT beat Never So Blue 4l in 14-runner maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). DIVERTIMIENTO 4½l 4th of 16 to Zephyros in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good) with WEEHEBY 10½l 6th. HAZARD A GUESS 7½l 3rd of 14 to Master Beveled in maiden hurdle at Ayr (2m, good). KINGDOM OF SHADES 15½l 5th of 23 to Roberty Lee in novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, good to soft). STAR PERFORMER 19l 2nd of 13 to Scilly Cay in novice hurdle at Carlisle (2m 1f, good to firm). WILL I FLY 16l 2nd of 10 to Flight Lieutenant in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft). MISS OPTIMIST beat Thursday Night 3l in 19-runner National Hunt Flat race at Newcastle (2m 110yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. Selection: KARSHI

3.30 WALTHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,427: 2m) (10 runners)

1	U22212	MOST EQUAL 29 (D,BF,F) (H Kingsland) M Pipe 5-12-9	D Barrows (5)	92
2	25/00P	FLY BY NORTH 26 (G,S) (Ford Farm) D Nicholson 7-11-13	X Aizpuru (5)	–
3	5510-3P	BANANA COVE 40 (F) (G Chesney) W Clay 4-11-10	P Carey	97
4	164/03-	VICEROY RULER 157F (D,G) (J McBarron) J Jenkins 4-11-8	D Walsh	97
5	1-14P1	SASSIVER 8 (B,D,F,G) (P Kelleway) P Kelleway 5-11-6 (6ex)	A Bates	98
6	2202/4P-	GENERAL TONIC 336 (Starlight Racing) D Gandolfo 8-11-5	Sophie Mitchell	93
7	FP00-21	STEADFAST ELITE 6 (G) (J Clayton) J J O'Neill 4-10-13 (6ex)	A Roche	93
8	321005	CHRIS'S GLEN 6 (V,D,F,G) (Tote End Racing) J Bradley 6-10-8	Guy Lewis	96
9	013/P0	RUN FAST FOR GOLD 19 (F) (Mrs D Hodges) Miss H Knight 8-10-4	G F Ryan	–
10	31F-052	SALISONE 8 (CD,6,S) (J Whyte) John Whyte 6-10-4	C Rae	(3)

BETTING: 9-4 Most Equal, 3-1 Sassiver, 7-2 General Tonic, 8-1 Fly By North, 10-1 Steadfast Elite, 12-1 Viceroy Ruler, 16-1 others.

1994: GLOWING PATH 4-10-4 T Jenks (11-1) R Hodges 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOST EQUAL 10l 2nd of 4 to Brocture Boy in handicap hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm). BANANA COVE 3l 3rd of 8 to No Light in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start. VICEROY RULER 14l 3rd of 8 to New Inn in novice hurdle at Southwell (2m, good to firm). FRENCH MYLE distant last of 4 to Betty's Boy in Grade II Worcester Novices' Chase (2m 7f, good to firm). POND HOUSE 34l 5th of 12 to Frown in maiden hurdle at Tiverton (2m 3f 110yd, soft). Selection: DUKE OF LANCASTER

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rns	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Sherwood	5	13	38.5	C Llewellyn	5	24	20.8
N Tinkler	4	11	36.4	G Bradley	5	24	20.8
D Nicholson	12	39	30.8	D Bridgwater	5	29	17.2
N Henderson	4	14	28.6	W Marston	7	42	16.7
M Pipe	18	68	26.5	D Gallagher	3	24	12.5
Mrs J Pitman	13	55	23.6	T Eley	3	26	11.5

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 12.15 Sarasona. 3.15 Don't Get Caught. Leicester: 3.00 Chilly Lad.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Hereford

Going: good to soft

12.50 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1. Buttercup Joe (W Marston, 5-2 jt-fav, Thunderer's nap). 2. Mr Kenma (50-1). 3. Hardy Weather (33-1) 16 ran. 5l, 15l. D Nicholson Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £10.20, £4.30. DF: £239.80. CSF: £102.33. Tno: not won.

1.20 (2m 3f ch) 1. Hurryup (R Dunwoody, 9-1). 2. Crafty Chaplain (5-1). 3. Cyrill Henry (7-2). Fair Brother 11-8 fav (f). 6 ran. 3l, dist. R Dickin. Tote: £10.50; £2.50, £1.90. DF: £15.00. CSF: £46.31.

1.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Ho-Joe (B Fenton, 6-1). 2. Latin Leader (9-1). 3. Dondresscefordinner (7-1). Slip A Corn 7-2 fav (pu). 15 ran. 3l, 6l. G Yardley. Tote: £7.20; £2.10, £4.40, £4.00. DF: £38.80. Tno: £74.00. CSF: £62.69.

2.20 (2m 3f ch) 1. Brees Of Mar (M A Fitzgerald, 6-4). 2. Ground Nut (7-1). 3. Danleylordsley (20-1) Lemon's Mill 5-6 fav (f) 5 ran. 4l, dist. N Henderson. Tote: £2.50; £1.80, £2.40. DF: £5.90. CSF: £11.26.

2.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1. Cawarna Boy (Mr E James, 3-1). 2. Prairie Grove (10-1). 3. Valeky (5-2 fav). 4. Hullo Mary Doll (16-1) 16 ran. 1¾l, 1¼l. C James. Tote: £4.90; £1.30, £3.50, £1.60, £2.60. DF: £36.80. Tno: £27.50. CSF: £33.98. Tricast: £83.49.

3.20 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1. Cantorix Frater (W Marston, 8-1). 2. Highway Five (25-1). 3. Three Of Clubs (20-1). Celtic Silver 4 fav (f) 11 ran. 15l, 10l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £6.50; £1.90, £6.40, £4.50. DF: £87.90. Tno: £227.00. CSF: £163.33. Tricast: £3,498.38.

3.50 (2m 1f flat race) 1. Badger's Lane (R Dunwoody, 5-1). 2. Harlequin Chorus (10-1). 3. Bramley May (9-1). Golden Drum 11-4 fav. 17 ran. 1l, nk. K Bailey. Tote: £6.30; £2.80, £3.00, £5.50. DF: £83.50. Tno: £162.70. CSF: £57.93.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £2,507.53 carried forward to Leicester today).

Placepot: £445.60. Quadpot: not won.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good to firm

1.00 (2m 3f hdle) 1. Desert Fighter (M Hennigan, 9-4 fav). 2. Able Player (5-2). 3. Fly To The End (9-2). 5 ran. 12l, 9l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.20; £1.30, £2.10. DF: £3.20. CSF: £3.13.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1. Wisdom (A S Smith, 6-1). 2. In Good Faith (6-1); 3. Daily Boy (50-1). Eden Dancer 11-8 fav. 21 ran. 2½l, 5l. K Morgan. Tote: £10.80; £2.40, £1.90, £13.00. DF: £32.90. Tno: £170.20. CSF: £51.31.

2.00 (2m ch) 1. Flash Of Realm (G Cahill, Evens fav). 2. Evening Rain (4-1). 3. North Pride (14-1). 8 ran. 7l, 25l1. P Monteith. Tote: £2.00, £1.10, £3.50. DF: £4.40. CSF: £5.30.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1. Kimberley Boy (P Niven, 5-1); 2. Brachernitwaste (5-1), 3, Deep Dawn (14-1). Exclusion 7-2 fav (ur). 13 ran. Hd, nk. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £5.10; £2.90, £7.40, £3.60. DF: £110.40. Tno: £43.00. CSF: £31.99. Tricast: £318.38. No bid.

3.00 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1. Twin States (M Dwyer, 11-2), 2. Stop The Waiter (4-1). 3, Andros Prince (16-1). Westwell Boy 7-2 fav. 11 ran. 1¾l, 5l. J Turner. Tote: £6.90; £2.10, £2.70, £2.50. DF: £21.30. Tno: £123.10. CSF: £26.78. Tricast: £307.25.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1. Broad Outlook (G Harker, 50-1). 2. Marsdan Rock (4-7 fav). 3, Belle Posse (3-1). 10 ran. 4l, 15l. M Smith. Tote: £52.00; £5.10, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £25.80. Tno: £30.30. CSF: £79.38.

Placepot: £120.80. Quadpot: £7.00.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

12.10 (7f) 1, Peggy Spencer (D McKeown, 8-11 fav); 2, Scissor Ridge (16-1), 3, Yo Kun-B (33-1). 10 ran. NR: Dalcross 3½l, nk. C Thomson. Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £2.30, £4.60. DF: £13.30. Tno: £28.00. CSF: £13.81.

12.40 (1m) 1. Easy Choice (A Clark, 9-4 fav), 2, Keadh Homm (3-1); 3, Awasha (6-1) 7 ran. NR Raffles Rooster 1¼l, 1¼l. P Mitchell. Tote: £3.30; £1.80, £1.80. DF: £3.40. CSF: £9.10.

1.10 (1m 4f) 1, Ballymakelly (T Ashley, 5-2 fav); 2, Just-Mara-Mou (10-1); 3, H'Ani (4-1) 14 ran. NR: Alpine Storm, Rose Chime. 10l, hd. R Akehurst. Tote: £6.10; £2.30, £2.50, £1.80. DF: £56.90. Tno: £49.70. CSF: £31.37. Tricast: £101.73.

1.40 (6f) 1, Arctic Romancer (A Whelan, 4-1); 2, Mol Canard (15-2); 3, Inanthepost (13-8 fav). 7 ran. 2½l, 1¼l. G Lewis. Tote: £3.90; £1.80, £2.60. DF: £9.60. CSF: £31.41.

2.10 (1m) 1, Mr Nevermind (S Whsworth, 6-4 jt-fav); 2, Nordic Doll (7-1); 3, Remaadi Sun (25-1). Light Fantastic 6-4 jt-fav 7 ran. NR: Anzio. 5l, 6l. G L Moore. Tote: £1.80; £1.40. £3.30. DF: £7.10. CSF: £11.97.

2.40 (2m) 1, Coleridge (J Quinn, 2-1 fav); 2, Mirowski (100-30), 3, Supreme Star (5-2) 9 ran. 4½l, 11l. J Sheehan. Tote: £2.20; £1.50, £2.90, £1.10. DF: £5.40. Tno: £11.80. CSF: £9.55

Fewer tears falling as standards rise again

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SOME relieved men were flying from the Costa del Sol to their homes yesterday — in particular 12 Englishmen, five Irishmen and five Swedes, three Spaniards, two Danes, two Scots, two Welshmen, two Americans and one each from Argentina, South Africa, Germany, France, Holland, Norway, Finland and Australia.

They were leaving Guadalmina and San Roque golf clubs with a sense of achievement that, of the 183 competitors who had attended the qualifying school, they were the 41 who had won places on the PGA European Tour in 1996.

A little of the drama has gone out of the qualifying school these days with the emergence of worthwhile lesser tours. Scenes such as those at La Manga in 1986, when grown men cried with pleasure and frustration, have almost all gone now.

This is in part because the players are more professional and in part because a place on the European Tour is not the only possibility for men who want to make a living playing golf at the highest level.

The Challenge tour was begun in 1989 and has proved itself a success, as has the Hippo Tour, a more recent competition. Named after a clothing manufacturer and run by Randy Fox, an energetic American turned travel agent in London, and Cathy Longhurst, a good name to have in golf, it is about to start its third year with 16 events, compared with five two years ago.

These tours have given a safety net to those players who otherwise would have been scrambling around seeking competition before beginning their annual attempts to reach the main tour through the qualifying schools.

If these tours have created extra employment for professionals, then they have also helped to create a dramatic improvement in standards. Now, there is an increasing supply of ever-improving young talent, not only from the traditional golfing countries, but also from Germany, Finland, Norway and Holland.

Memories may be playing tricks, but the recollections from the tour school at La Manga in 1986 were of a number of very good and not very good players and quite a few who were good but not quite good enough. On Guadalmina's winding fairways and the more exposed acres of San Roque, the overall standard was not dissimilar from a European tour event of 15 years ago.

No matter to what extent the standard has risen, the effect that the pressure created in the sixth round was remarkable. Players who performed quite steadily until the last day went to pieces, while others, showing a mental fortitude that should serve them well, fought tenaciously and ultimately successfully.

Richard Dinsdale, for example, was out in 39 and seven over par. The Welshman knew that the target was six over — and he courageously birdied two of his last four holes to qualify.

Nobody who was anywhere near David Howell as he sank a 12-yard chip from above the flag on his 16th hole on Tuesday — his 105th of the tournament — will have failed to realise the significance of what he had done. It took Howell, the former Walker Cup player, to five over par, some of the pressure was lifted and he birdied the last hole, too.

It was a pleasure to see Juan Carlos Piñero, the brother of Manuel, get his card at his eighth attempt as it was to observe the first, far-from-faltering, steps as a professional of Stephen Gallacher. He seemed as unflappable when he hit a rare bad shot as he was unimpressed on striking one that met his own exacting standards. His name is to be written down for the future to continue the link between European golf and Gallacher.

On the evidence of this qualifying school, the body of competitive professional golf in Europe is unquestionably in good condition. If only these young men would play more quickly; five hours for a round is far too long.

A second round of 72, that included three birdies, gave Tracey Craik the halfway lead in the American Express Tour qualifying school tournament at La Manga Club, Spain yesterday. The Oxfordshire-based Scot's total of 143, one under par, put her one stroke ahead of Anne-Marie Knight, of Australia, who had the day's best round with a 69. Tracey Loveys, from Dorset, lies a further stroke behind.



Jones, left, the Colwyn Bay manager, watches his players prepare for their FA Cup tie against Blackpool. Photograph: Barry Greenwood

Rebels with a cause head for the border

As Colwyn Bay bid for FA Cup glory, **Peter Ball** discovers the club that has a long and bitter tradition of confounding the odds

In August, the two surviving members of the Welsh "Irate Eight", Newport and Colwyn Bay, met in a pre-season friendly. It was quickly dubbed a match for "The Rebels' Cup".

Colwyn Bay won. On Saturday, they have a rather more prestigious cup match, at Blackpool in the second round of the FA Cup, the furthest that the club has been in the competition and a reward for the fortitude shown in its battle with the Football Association of Wales (FAW) for the right to play in English non-league football.

"The last few years have been tough — tough to the point where you wonder: 'Is it worth it?'" Alan Banks, the club's honorary secretary, said. "But, when you get a bit of a run in the FA Cup, you say: 'Yes, it is.'"

When Banks first became associated with the club, in the 1960s, most football supporters did not even travel as far as Wrexham, let alone fill the coaches which, these days, depart from north Wales every Saturday heading for Old Trafford, Anfield or Goodison Park.

Back then, the traffic was all in the other direction; every Saturday, trains and buses, and the occasional car, brought footballers from Lancashire to play for Rhyl, Llandudno or Colwyn Bay.

"It was called the Gold Coast in those days because the money was here for the players," Banks said. "Hundreds used to come down to play in the Fifties and Sixties. With their jobs as well, they used to earn more than they would with Football League sides; but the money dried up."

It took Colwyn Bay 15 years to recover from the debts. "The debts were finally paid off in 1979, and we began to turn the corner," Banks, who became secretary in 1967, said.

The turning of the corner was swiftly followed by the appointment of Bryn Jones as player-manager. Jones, a butcher in his day job, has been there ever since, taking the side up six divisions from the now-defunct Welsh League North through the North West Counties to the Northern Premier in his 15 years.

Four years ago, they were making impressive progress up the English non-league pyramid, winning the first division of the Northern Premier League to move up into the premier division when the FAW decided to form the Konica League of Wales and ordered all of its clubs to join.



Colwyn was one of eight clubs that defied the order. Apart from Newport, the others surrendered, but Colwyn Bay went into exile, first at Northwich and then at Ellesmere Port, as they embarked upon a long and draining court case in which Colwyn and Newport took on not just the FAW but the might of Fifa, the world governing body.

That has been successful, at least temporarily, but the costs have been high. "As a club, we've been held back by having to play two years in exile," Jones said. "We were a progressive club three years ago; we were winning things, there was interest in the town, but we lost the momentum with having to play away.

"We had everything pulled away from us — money; playing away from Colwyn meant no support and no atmosphere; the players felt they were fighting an uphill battle against the FAW, not thinking they were going to get anywhere, not knowing whether they had any future.

"If we had been just a team brought in by a benefactor — which you sometimes get at this level — rather than a club, we wouldn't have survived, but there are no mercenaries here. The lads could all do better elsewhere, but they didn't want to play in the Welsh League, they wanted to play in a better standard of football."

The team, six of whom, including Dave Brett, the player/assistant manager, and Peter Donnelly, the captain, have been at the club for six or seven years, stayed loyal, and are now reaping the reward with the trip to Blackpool. In Jones's words, it is: "The biggest game of their lives".

It will be productive for the club, too. "This FA Cup run has given the club the lift it needed, given us a little bit of a kick-start," Jones said. Although the average gate is now around 400, about 300 down on the figure before they went to Northwich, they expect to take 800 supporters with them to Blackpool.

"The phone's been hot," Banks said. "As well as the supporters' club, pubs and other local organisations are running trips. The FA Cup brings them all out, doesn't it?"

Charlton leaves play-off place for Keane

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

JACK CHARLTON, the manager of Ireland, yesterday left a place open for Roy Keane in his squad to play Holland in the European football championship qualifying play-off match at Anfield on December 13.

Keane, the Manchester United midfield player, underwent a hernia operation three weeks ago and missed Ireland's 3-0 defeat in Portugal. He played in only three of Ireland's ten matches in group six, in which they finished runners-up. Charlton, though, is determined to give him every chance of recovering, and has named a 21-strong squad. Niall Quinn, the Manchester City striker, is suspended, Tommy Coyne, of Motherwell, injured, and Eddie McGoldrick, of Arsenal, dropped.

"If it can be proved that Keane has recovered from his injury, I would still like to have him in the squad, and I will leave it as long as possible to see what can be done," Charlton said.

Charlton's decision again to invoke the five-day international rule has caused consternation among FA Carling Premiership clubs, which face a full programme on the weekend before.

Arsenal, Manchester United, Sheffield Wednesday, Liverpool, Aston Villa, Chelsea, Blackburn Rovers, Manchester City and Middlesbrough are affected, but the Premier League is sticking firmly to its rule book, and yesterday insisted that matches stay on the original date of December 9.

IRELAND SQUAD: A Kelly (Sheffield United), P Bonner (Celtic), D Irwin (Manchester United), G Kelly (Leeds United), J Kenna, (Blackburn Rovers), P McGrath (Aston Villa), P Babb (Liverpool), T Phelan (Chelsea), S Staunton (Aston Villa), J Sheridan (Sheffield Wednesday), R Houghton (Crystal Palace), J McAteer (Liverpool), M Milligan (Norwich City), A Townsend (Aston Villa), A McLoughlin (Portsmouth), D Kelly (Sunderland), J Aldridge (Tranmere Rovers), A Cascarino (Marseilles), M Kennedy (Liverpool), C Morris (Middlesbrough), A Kernaghan (Manchester City).

Graham Pearce and Graham Moseley

A report (November 24) about an on-pitch fight involving Blackburn Rovers footballers stated that Graham Pearce and Graham Moseley, two Brighton players, had been booked for fighting in 1981. This information was provided by a reputable sports news agency and we had no reason to doubt its accuracy. In fact, neither Graham Pearce nor Graham Moseley was involved in any such incident. We apologise for any embarrassment caused by this mistake.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT
SESSION 1995-96

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

Notice is hereby given that application is being made to Parliament by University College London, the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine (hereinafter referred to as "the School"), the Institute of Neurology and The Institute of Child Health (hereinafter referred to as "the Institutes") for leave to introduce in the present Session a Bill (hereinafter referred to as "the Bill") under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:-

1. To unite the School and the Institutes with University College London on a day or days to be appointed and to provide for the dissolution of those bodies.
2. To transfer to University College London all rights, properties and liabilities of the School and the Institutes.
3. To make provision for the saving of agreements, deeds, actions, etc., and for the construction of bequests, etc.
4. To provide for various powers or rights of the School and the Institutes to nominate members of certain bodies to be transferred to University College London.
5. To provide as to the name of the medical school of University College London and to restrict the future use of the names of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, the Institute of Neurology and The Institute of Child Health.
6. To enact provisions incidental to or consequential upon the above mentioned purposes.

On and after the 4th day of December 1995 a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof may be obtained at the price of 50p each at University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, Rowland Hill Street, London NW3 2PF, the Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG and The Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1N 1EH and at the offices of the undersigned Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in either or both Houses of Parliament. The last date for the deposit of Petitions in the First House will be 30th January 1996 if the Bill originates in the House of Commons or 6th February 1996 if it originates in the House of Lords. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the undersigned Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 30th day of November 1995

REES & FRERES,
1 The Sanctuary,
Westminster,
London SW1P 3JT

Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents

LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
HERTFORD PRODUCTION DESIGN LIMITED
IN CREDITORS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Frames of Ian Frames Associates, Condait House, 24 Condait Place, London W2 1EP and Malcolm Cork of Moore Stephens Booth White, 1 Snow Hill, London EC1A 2EN were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above-named company on the 16th November 1995.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Ian Frames at Condait House, 24 Condait Place, London W2 1EP. I Frames - Joint Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
BRAMHALL GLAZING LIMITED

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of Baker Tilly, Chartered Accountants, Brazennose House, Lincoln Square, Manchester, M2 5BL, on 8 December 1995 at 11.00am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 100 and 101 of the said Act. A List of the company's Creditors may be inspected free of charge at Baker Tilly, Chartered Accountants, Brazennose House, Lincoln Square, Manchester, M3 5BL, between 10am and 5pm on the two business days preceding the meeting.
Dated the 17th November 1995.
By order of the Board.
A. Ramsbottom, Director.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BAILEY, IVY BAILEY Spinster late of Dorking, Surrey died at Redhill, Surrey on 8 January 1995. (Estate about £7,600).
BOYLES nee BISHOP, MAUD ELIZABETH EMILY BOYLES otherwise MAUD ELIZABETH BOYLES nee BISHOP Widow late of Maidenhead, Berkshire died at Slough, Berkshire on 3 March 1995. (Estate about £13,000).
CARPENTER, SYDNEY LLOYD CARPENTER late of Chestnut, Hertfordshire died there on 15 July 1995. (Estate about £23,000).
DODD, HAROLD DODD late of Stanley, County Durham died at Consett, County Durham on 23 June 1993. (Estate about £140,000).
FABER, ANNIE FABER Spinster late of Islington, London N.1. died at Camden, London NW1 on 13 February 1993. (Estate about £8,000).
FLINT, ALBERT GORDON FLINT late of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died there on 24 March 1995. (Estate about £5,400).
GARSTIN nee THOMPSON, AUDREY RUTH GARSTIN otherwise AUDREY GARSTIN nee THOMPSON Single Woman late of Isleworth, Middlesex died there on 6 September 1995. (Estate about £5,000).
GASKIN, EVAN McGREGOR GASKIN late of Newton, Stratfordupon-Avon died at Bortleshy Green, Birmingham on 25 December 1995. (Estate about £10,000).
GROUNDWELL, DONALD GROUNDWELL late of Shepperton, Lincolnshire died at Boston, Lincolnshire on 22 April 1995. (Estate about £29,000).
HAINSWORTH, DAVID YOUNG HAINSWORTH late of Bradford, West Yorkshire died there on 16 April 1994. (Estate about £5,500).
HALL, GEORGE HALL late of Carterton, Oxfordshire died there on 13 March 1995. (Estate about £36,000).
INMAN nee SMALLEY, SARAH INMAN nee SMALLEY Widow late of Ramsgate, Kent died at Margate Kent on 5 July 1995. (Estate about £50,000).
JORDAN formerly LEVY, JOHN JORDAN formerly ISIDORE LEVY late of Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex died there on 19 November 1994. (Estate about £50,000).
MELLOR nee WILKINSON, ESME JEAN MELLOR nee WILKINSON Widow late of Crewe, Cheshire died there on 25 May 1994. (Estate about £25,000).
PARNELL, JOAN ELIZABETH PARNELL late of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk died at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk on 13 December 1994. (Estate about £47,000).
PHILLIPS, FRANCIS PHILLIPS late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 24 September 1993. (Estate about £62,000).
PIORKOWSKI, STANISLAW PIORKOWSKI late of Clapham, London SW4 died there on 4 May 1995. (Estate about £47,000).
RAWNSLEY, JOAN WINIFRED RAWNSLEY Spinster late of Stafford, Staffordshire died at Stafford on 26 February 1995. (Estate about £5,000).
SKINNER, ARTHUR GEORGE SKINNER late of Eastleigh, Hampshire died at Southampton, Hampshire on 3 May 1993. (Estate about £1,800).
SMITH, WILLIAM SMITH late of Trimdon Grange, County Durham died there on 9 December 1994. (Estate about £16,000).
SMYTHE otherwise STAFFORD SMYTHE, EVA GERALDINE STAFFORD SMYTHE otherwise STAFFORD-SMYTHE Spinster late of Oxton, Merseyside died there on 31 March 1995. (Estate about £50,000).
TATE, GLADYS MAY TATE Spinster late of Corringham, Norfolk died there on 15 January 1994. (Estate about £30,000).
WALKER, HORACE HOLLISTER WALKER late of Thornbury, Avon died at Westbury on Trym, Avon on 21 April 1995. (Estate about £5,000).

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (RV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, stating which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

NIGEL ANDERSON notice for divorce proceedings 18/12/95, wife MICHELLE ANDERSON. Western Australia.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representative(s) among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

HOWLETT, Lily of 7 Alastair Place, Clayton, Ipswich, Suffolk died on 17 July 1995 particulars to Burton Yeates Weatherys Solicitors of 38 St Martins Lane, London WC2N 4ER Att. Emily Macaulay, before 3 February 1996.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

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FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

SINGAPORE: World Grand Prix finals: Men: First round: H Arbi (Indo) bt J Olsson (Swe) 15-8, 15-7; Ong Ewe Hock (Malay) bt P-E Hoyer Larsen (Den) 15-8, 15-8; J *Supriarto (Indo) bt Tan Sian Peng (Sing)* 15-4, 15-5; H Hendrawan (Indo) bt H Susanto (Indo) 15-9, 15-4; A Wiranata (Indo) bt Fung Permadi (Taiwan) 15-11, 15-4, R Sidek (Malay) bt *Lee Kwan-jin* (S Kor) 15-11, 15-7; Dong Jiong (China) bt J van Dijk (Holl) 15-8, 15-7; A Budi Kusuma (Indo) bt P Rasmussen (Den) 15-6, 15-12.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Cleveland 93 Toronto 89; Miami 111 Dallas 89; New Jersey 89 Washington 84; Atlanta 102 *New York 97; Charlotte 106 Milwaukee 98*; Minnesota 121 Vancouver 98; Houston 116 LA Clippers 103, Indiana 102 Seattle 101; Sacramento 91 Denver 85.

BOWLS

COATBRIDGE: CIS Insurance Scottish Masters: Quarter-finals: A Thomson (Eng) bt J Lindores (Scot) 7-3, 7-0; P Corlan (Scot) bt A Marshall (Scot) 0-7, 7-6, 7-5 Semi-final: J Price (Wales) bt R Corsie (Scot) 7-1 7-2

CRICKET

One-day international
India v New Zealand

BOMBAY (India won toss). India beat New Zealand by six wickets

NEW ZEALAND

M J Greatbatch c Manjrekar b Srinath	4
N Astle c Prasad b Prabhakar	9
S P Fleming c and b Srinath	8
†A C Parore run out	14
R G Twose st Mongia b Kapoor	14
*S A Thomson run out	20
*†L K Germon b Kumble	29
G Larsen c Srinath b Kapoor	6
D J Nash c Prasad b Kumble	11
S B Doull c Prasad b Kumble	2
D K Morrison not out	1
Extras (lb 3, nb 3, w 2)	8
Total	126

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-20, 3-38, 4-38, 5-64, 6-89, 7-97, 8-113, 9-125

Bowling: Prabhakar 5-0-29-1, Srinath 6-0-22-2, Prasad 6-0-22-0, Kapoor 10-0-33-2, Kumble 8-0-17-3.

INDIA

M Prabhakar not out	32
S R Tendulkar b Morrison	1
V G Kambli c Greatbatch b Doull	48
*†M A Azharuddin c Germon b Doull	4
S V Manjrekar c Thomson b Doull	0
A D Jadeja not out	35
Extras (lb 2, w 6)	8
Total (4 wkts)	128

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-71, 3-75, 4-75

BOWLING: Morrison 9-2-32-1, Nash 8-1-25-0, Doull 6-0-42-3, Larsen 9-1-27-0

Umpires: I Shivram and A V Jayaprakash
Man of the match: J Srinath
Man of the series: M Prabhakar

DEVONPORT, Australia: Tour match (one day): *Tasmania 230-5 (R Ponting 99, S* Young 76); Sri Lankans 220 (A de Silva 67) Sri Lankans won on faster scoring rate when rain ended play.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Fourth round: Reading 2 Southampton 1.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Second round: Northern section: Chesterfield 2 Rochdale 1, Hull 1 Blackpool 2; Lincoln 2 Preston 1, Scarborough 0 York 3; Wrexham 1 Carlisle 2; Rotherham 0 Wigan 0 (aet, Rotherham won 4-1 on pens) Southern section: Brentford 0 Fulham 1; Bristol Rovers 2 Bournemouth 1; Cardiff 1 Northampton 2; Oxford United 1 Colchester 2; Peterborough 1 Swansea 0 (aet, Peterborough won in sudden-death extra-time), Shrewsbury 0 Bristol City 0 (aet, Shrewsbury won 7-6 on pens), Walsall 1 Brighton 2.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Spalding Cup: Second round: Farnborough 1 Dover 3, Kettering 2 Stevenage 1 (aet; 1-1 after 90 min); Macclesfield 4 Kiddermnster 1; Runcorn 1 Southport 5

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Congleton 1 Curzon Ashton 1; Eastwood Town 1 Farsley Celtic 2; Harrogate Town 1 Bradford PA 2.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ruzhden and Diamonds 3 Baldock 0 Midland division:: Leicester United 0 Kings Lynn 3; R C Warwick 2 Rothwell 4. Dr Martens Cup: First round: Second leg: Merthyr Tydfil 1 Newport AFC 1

FA TROPHY: Third qualifying round: Replays: Bamber Bridge 2 Burton 3; Leek United 2 Tamworth 0; Stafford 3; Staines 5 Molesey 0; Braintree 0 Carshalton 5; Bilston 1 Halesowen 4 (aet; 1-1 after 90min), Witton 0 Bishop Auckland 0 (aet), Oxford City 3 Bromley 2 (aet; 2-2 after 90min)

SUN LIFE GOLD CUP: Quarter-final: Postponed: Cliftonville v Glenavon.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton 0 Arsenal 4; Portsmouth 0 Crystal Palace 2; Queens Park Rangers 3 Watford 1 Second division: Postponed: Plymouth v Bath, Torquay v Bournemouth.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second round, second replay: Sawbridgeworth Town 1 Furness 2

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Maine Road 2 Mossley 4 Challenge Cup: Second round: Replay: Trafford 3 St Helens 2 Floodlit Trophy: Second round: Kidsgrove 1 Newcastle Town 5

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Berkhamsted 1 Wembley 0; Marlow 4 Thame 6 Second division: Witham 0 Hampton 1. Third division: Kingsbury 2 Harlow 1 Carlton cup: Second round: Aylesbury 0 Purfleet 1; Barton 0 Heybridge Swifts 1; Boreham Wood 3 Barking 1; St Albans 1 Ruislip Manor 2; Tooting and Mitcham 4 Wokingham 3

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Port Vale 5 Leicester 0.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST: League Cup: Second round: Liversedge 2 Brigg 4; Louth 0 Stocksbridge PS 5; North Ferriby 5 Armthorpe Welfare 3; Ossett Town 2 Boorswash Vic 2; Thackley 3 Hatfield Main 0; Wintorton 1 Ashfield 3, Maltby MW 1 Goole 2

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Sheffield 2 Newcastle 1; West Ham 3 Aston Villa 0; Wimbledon 1 Brighton 0; Burnley 1 Stoke 0. Blackburn 5 Nottingham Forest 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-18 Trophy: Staffordshire 0 Worcestershire 3 Palmer Cup: Quarter-final: Holloway 3 Alloyn's, Dulwich 2.

ITALIAN CUP: Quarter-final: First leg: Bologna 1 AC Milan 1

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, G Norman (Aus) 22.47pts; 2, N Price (Zim) 16.35; 3, B Langer (Ger) 15.53; 4, E Els (SA) 14.93, 5, N Faldo (Eng) 14.54; 6, C Montgomerie (Scot) *13.88*; 7, C Pavin (US) 12.54; 8, F Couples (US) 10.98; 9, S Ebsington (Aus) 10.61; 10, M Ozaki (Japan) 10.56, 11, T Lehman (US) 9.79, 12, J M Olazabal (Sp) 9.47, 13, L Janzen (US) 8.18, 14, V Singh (Fiji) 8.18; 15, S Torrance (Scot) 8.10.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 3 Montreal 2, Colorado 7 NY Islanders 3; Pittsburgh 7 Ottawa 2, Winnipeg 4 Toronto 3, Chicago 5 Edmonton 3.

RUGBY UNION

HEINEKEN CUP: Cardiff 46 Ulster 6.

TOUR MATCHES: Newcastle 13 Transvaal 38, London and South East 32 Western Samoans 40

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University *35 Steele-Bodger's XV 28*.

UNDER 21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Semi-final: Cheshire 0 Yorkshire 26, Midlands: Semi-final: North Midlands 17 Staffordshire 8

SCHOOLS MATCH: Dungannon 8 Coleraine Academy 32.

SHOOTING

DELHI: Commonwealth championships: Air pistol: Men: 1, J Rana (India) 674.1pts; 2, P Leatherdale (Eng) 670 6; 3 I Khan (Pak) 665.3. Pairs: 1, India 1,140.2; 2, England (Leatherdale and R Nagle) 1,133. Women: 1, A Fardor (Aus) 467 7, 2, S Othman (Malaysia) 467.3; 3, C Page (Eng) 467.0. Smallbore rifle: Prone: 1, S Watterson (toM) 695 8; 2, T Palangappa (India) 695.5 Pairs: 1, Isle of Man (Watterson and Creevy) 1,179; 2, Sri Lanka 1,179 (count back); 3, England (T Langridge and N Davis) 1,177. 300 metres (3 x 20): 1, Sukhdev Singh (India) 524; 2, Fateh Singh (India) 521; 3, N Bartlett (Wales) 433. 300 metres (3 x 40): 1, Fateh Singh 1,080; 2, S Limbu (India) 1,037; 3, R Clark (N Ire) 970. Pairs: 1, India 2,117; 2, Northern Ireland (Clark and Mace) 1,258. 3 x 20 (smallbore) Women: 1, J Hay (Eng) 654.4; 2, P Pamanayake (Sri Lanka) 652.2; 3, J Malcolm (Wales) 652.3 Other British scores: L Smallbone (Eng) 635 6; S Hartop (Wales) 634.8 Pairs: 1, Sri Lanka 1,119; 2, England (Hay and Smallbone) 1,117 (93); 3, Wales (Malcolm and Hartop) 1,117 3 x 40 smallbore rifle: Men: 1, D Henn (SA) *1,236.2*; 2, T Langridge (Eng) *1,230.1*. Pairs: 1, England (Langridge and Parr) *2,287*; 2, Malaysia *2,253*; 3, Scotland (Law and Sellar) 2,249. Rapid fire pistol: 1, M Jay (N Wales) 671; 2, R Filey (Eng) 661; 3, D Tuck Wah (Malaysia) 659. Pairs: 1, Wales (Jay and Pengelly) 1,130; 2, England (Filery and Armstrong) 1,117; 3, India 1,112. Standard pistol: 1, J Rana (India) 581; 2, D Moore (Aus) 1,112; 3, P Pippert (Eng) 555. Pairs: 1, India 1,131; 2, Australia 1,112; 3, England (Smith and Pippard) 1,109; 4, Wales (Pengelly and Craft) 1,080.

CAMBRIDGE: Smallbore (teams of four): 1, Sevenoaks School A 771 (J Hossack 196); 2, Cambridge University A 769 (S Gould 197); 3, Sevenoaks B 755; 4, Cambridge B

SQUASH

DOHA: Qatar international championship: First round: M Z Gul (Pak) bt Z Jahan Khan (Pak); R Eyles (Aus) bt F Usandizaga (Arg); P Gregory (Gr) bt A Hill (Aus); A Barada (Egypt) bt P Steel (NZ) Second round: D Hamd (Eng) bt T Hands (Eng) 17-15, 15-4, 15-6; P Gregory (Gr) bt M Zaman Gul (Pak) 15-6, 15-8, 15-10, D Jenson (Aus) bt J Boneta (Fr) 11-15, 15-6, 15-8, 15-13; B *Martin (Aus) bt A Barada (Egypt)* 15-10, 10-15, 15-11, 15-8; J Khan (Pak) bt J Nicolle (Eng) 15-5, 15-2, 15-6

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship: Third round: A Hicks (Eng) bt J Wattana (Thai) 9-8; M Williams (Wales) bt J Parrott (Eng) 9-6.

TENNIS

VELENJE, Slovenia: Men's ATP Challenger tournament: First round: J Cunha-Silva (Por) bt A Richardson (GB) 7-6, 7-6; D Ogorodov (Uzb) bt D Sapsford (GB) 6-4, 6-3; G Mandl (Austria) bt C Wilkinson (GB) 7-6, 7-6.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £40,575.95, 23 £464.70, 22 £37.15, 21 £8.35, 20 £2.05 Four draws: £10.65. Ten homes: £331.40. Five aways: £731.60.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £16,779.65, 23 £205.55, 22 £30.20, 21 £4.55. Ten homes: £1,167.00. Five aways: £24.80.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £10,646.15, 23 £48.30, 22 £4.70, 21 £0.75. Four draws: £12.40 Eight homes: £59.20 Four aways: £70.60. Easy six: £15.20. Lucky numbers: 12, 8, 16, 11, 36, 21. Goals galore: £6.80.

MATCHES PLAYED 25TH NOVEMBER '95
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هكذا من الاصل

China's wall of silence offers Le no protection

FROM CRAIG LORD IN RIO DE JANEIRO

WIN or lose over the next four days in the world short-course championships here, China will remain a pariah in swimming after a year in which 15 positive drugs tests took the country's tally to 19 and confirmed the suspicions and fears of rival nations.

If the Chinese women fall short of their phenomenal form of the past two years, they will be ridiculed and their humbling held up as confirmation of sins past.

If, however, they repeat the success of the inaugural short-course championships, two years ago, and that of the long-course equivalent last year, they will be peppered with questions about drugs and lambasted for remaining silent on the subject. The noise will come from the World Swimming Coaches Association, which wants China suspended from competition until it can prove that it has its drugs crisis under control.



Pickering: medal hopes

With so few results from competition in China reported for inclusion on the world-rankings list, predictions of form are difficult to make. This morning will reveal whether the world can expect a repeat of Palma de Majorca two years ago, when Chinese women won nine out of 16 titles and set 11 world records. Le Jingyi and Liu Limin will take to their blocks in defence of the titles that they will find hardest to hold on to, the 100 metres freestyle and 200 metres butterfly respectively. Le, 20, faces Franziska van Almsick, the last product of East Germany, who has become the wealthiest swimmer in the world during a four-year career in a united Germany in which she has won only one world title.

Van Almsick, 17, has a cold and cancelled a press conference yesterday. Le, too, has been little seen and never heard, the Chinese preferring to protect her from the gaze of those hoping to see whether the astonishing musculature that helped her power to five world long-course titles and four world records last year has diminished. Her times this year are two seconds adrift of her world-record pace over 100 metres.

Liu, on the other hand, has swum consistently close to her best and enters as favourite, despite the presence of Susan O'Neill, of Australia, who set the third fastest 200 metres butterfly long-course time in history in August. Both adapt well to short course, in which the pool, 25 metres as opposed to 50, dictates more turns.

Beyond Le and Liu are several new names whose potential cannot be understated. The one to watch is Na Chao, 15, who rose from 65th to third in the world at 50 metres freestyle last summer but is entered in the 100, 200 and 400 metres freestyle here with world-class times that are not registered on the world-ranking list. Na's entry time in the 200 metres ranks above that of Karen Pickering, of Ipswich, who won the title in Palma in a time that remains the second fastest in history. Pickering, 23, was happy not to be favourite for the title this time. Van Almsick, the world record-holder, holds that honour.

In the long-distance freestyle events, Sarah Hardcastle, 26, will carry Great Britain's best medal hopes. A better short-course swimmer than long, Hardcastle has undergone six weeks of hypnotherapy to help her achieve success in the 400 and 800 metres freestyle.

While some races reflect world standards, the decision of the United States and Russia not to send their strongest teams, and with Hungary and Finland declining invitations, weakness abounds. Of the 32 titles, only half will be defended.

In the absence of Aleksandr Popov, the world record-holder, Brazil hopes to turn the Copacabana pool into an aquatic carnival. Gustavo Borges, fastest in the world over 100 metres freestyle this year, is favourite for the title.

Neil Willey, of the Barnet Copthall club in London, hopes for a medal-winning and British record-breaking performance in the 100 metres backstroke, but Nick Gillingham and Mark Foster will not defend their titles.

Pioneers of the oche pierce another male domain

Stuart Jones meets one of four women who are breaking down a long-standing sporting barrier



SIMON WALKER

Solomons, who has thrown a perfect 501 in competition, practises for her world championship debut today

Another male bastion is about to fall. On the oche this afternoon will stand the first women to compete in the world professional darts championship, albeit in the qualifying stages at the Earls Court international hotel.

Of the four pioneers, all of them English, the most prominent is the youngest, Mandy Solomons. She is ranked No 3 in the country and this season became the first domestic representative to embrace perfection by scoring 501 in nine darts.

The feat, achieved in the less than glamorous context of a Greater London super league match between Hackney and West Ham, sets her apart. Yet Solomons, 32, stressed that her unprecedented intrusion into the elite should be regarded merely as natural evolution. "It's no big deal," she said.

She accepts that outsiders might put a different interpretation on the quartet's appearance and does not expect a warm welcome from the male contenders this afternoon. "They're not happy because they're losing places in the qualifying competition," Solomons said. "They would rather we had our own championship."

For five years, the women have been making the same plea, but sponsors have been reluctant to grant the wish. Indeed, apart from matches in the Islington mixed league, Solomons has played against only one man — Cliff Lazarenko in an exhibition in Winchester.

She won, but is not optimistic that she will progress this week. "A win would be a bonus," she said. "You never know whether you are going to play well or not." Ominously, though, the same lack of conviction was evident during her historic 501.

Only after seven successive treble 20s did she foresee the realisation of "a dream since I started playing". Although there was a darts board hung up at home, her parents allowed her to take part only as a marker. Her career began "upstairs at the supermarket where I worked" when she was 21.

Seven years ago, she won the world masters, also at Earls Court, and chose to resign from her job as a machinist sewing leather "to make men's shoes". She signed a one-year contract with her sponsors and is now the only female professional in England.

Nevertheless, she does not earn enough to travel to all of the tournaments and Deta Hedman, her doubles partner, has gained sufficient points to be ranked No 1. Together, they have won the Dutch, Swiss and Norwegian titles as well as the World Cup this year.

Sandra Greatbach, a vegetable grader who will be 50 in February, and Sharon Colclough, a shop assistant from Hayes, are the other members of the quartet. None of them is expected to be among the last 32, who will contest the world title at Frimley Green in the first week of the new year. Nor, according to Solomons, are the four about to revolutionise the enduring image of the sport.

She does not indulge in physical training and readily admits that she has "put on about two stone" since 1988. If she was not throwing darts for a living, she would like to have her own pub.

So reticent that she confesses to being shy, she has no misgivings about being watched by a crowd far larger than is her usual experience. "I'll just cut them out, block them off," she said. At her three matches during any week, she performs in front of "maybe a dozen people".

As she warms up this morning, she says that she will not give a thought to repeating the perfect game later in the day. However, should she qualify for Frimley Green and reach 501 in nine darts again, it would earn her £52,000.

Headley follows family tradition

FROM PAT GIBSON IN RAWALPINDI

DEAN HEADLEY has his answer ready when he is asked if he thinks that he will ever be as good as George, his grandfather, the first of the great West Indian cricketers, or even Ron, his father, the former Worcestershire opener who would almost certainly have won more than two Test caps if he had not decided to settle in England.

"I am a far better bowler than they were already," Headley says in an accent that is unmistakably West Midlands, where he grew up with all the great expectations that are heaped on such famous names as his.

There was never much chance that he would be as good a batsman as his grandfather, but he is right about the bowling. It appears that he could make history himself by becoming the third Headley to play Test cricket, albeit for a different country.

Headley was added to the England A squad on tour in Pakistan only as an afterthought, the selectors calling him in to replace Peter Martin when he was promoted to the senior tour of South Africa, but he has bowled so well that his name will be one of the first on the team-sheet for the second international match against Pakistan A, which is due to start here today. The team has not been finalised because the first of Pakistan's winter rains arrived in such quantities on Tuesday that the water poured under the tarpaulin covers and flooded the pitch at the KRL (Khan Research Laboratories) Stadium, which is a neat enough little ground but hardly the setting for an international match.

Nobody knows how the pitch will play when the match eventually gets under way, which may not be on the first day, so England A are keeping all their seam bowling options open. They may even find a place for Tim Munton, who was expected to have to wait his turn after arriving as a replacement for the injured Mike Smith. Munton will be ideally suited by a seaming pitch, but it is certain that Headley will be given the chance to add to the 14 wickets that he has taken, at a cost of 164 runs, in 87 impressive overs in his two first-class matches of the tour.

It is a performance that has surprised even John Emburey, the team manager, who played with Headley for Middlesex before Headley joined Kent two years ago. Emburey is considering putting him forward as a candidate for the England World Cup squad on the sub-continent early next year.

Headley has certainly shown that he can bowl on the pitches here, his tight line, ability to swing the new ball away and increasing expertise at reverse swing with the old one frustrating batsmen into error. He probably has little chance of making it to the World Cup at this late stage, but he could serve England well on future trips to these parts.

In that case, he might just be wrong when he says: "If I have a son, people will say, 'Oh yes, George Headley was your great-grandad and Ron Headley was your grandad . . . now who's your father again?'"

Shane Warne, the Australia leg spinner, was passed fit yesterday to play in the final Test of the three-match series against Pakistan that starts in Sydney today. He will wear a protective cap in his boot when batting to shield the toe that he cracked in the second Test, in Hobart, last week.

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City v Swindon (at Clevedon Town FC)

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.0): First division: Nottingham Forest v Leeds United; Oldham Athletic v Sheffield Wednesday; Stoke City v Blackburn. Second division: Hull v Aston Villa; Coventry v Grimsby.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Dundalk v Ainfone (7.45).

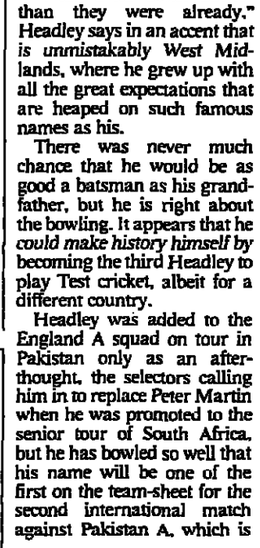
LONDON FA CUP: *First round replay*: Boreham wood v Leyton Pennant.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Gloucestershire v Avon (at Tuffley Rovers); Shropshire v Herefordshire (at Ludlow). Worcestershire Under-19 Cup: Final: Leys HS v King Charles HS (at Ryland Centre, 2.0). Essex Birmingham Trophy: Newham v Waltham Forest (at Macmillan Stadium, 6.0)

OTHER SPORTS

BASKETBALL: 7-Up Trophy: Quarter-final, second leg: Derby v Worthing (8.0)

SNOOKER: Royal Liver Assurance United Kingdom championship (Preston).



Crackdown after Murray inquiry

BY JOHN GOODBODY AND SRIKUMAR SEN

GREAT Britain's boxing officials yesterday banned mixed promotions, in which non-dinner guests are allowed into dinner shows, after the riot in a Glasgow hotel at the end of the title bout in which James Murray died last month.

The British Boxing Board of Control also ordered closer liaison by promoters with security firms and police.

The board, which set up a tribunal to investigate the violence, said that one of the problems at the Hospitality Inn in Glasgow was that, because the promotion was primarily a dinner show, security was inadequate to cope with the large number of spectators. Some began throwing bottles and chairs as the British bantamweight title bout ended with Murray fatally injured.

The board's stewards concluded that a section of the crowd, who had purchased tickets for the boxing only, had caused the disturbances, adding that the problem appeared to have been exacerbated by alcohol. The tribunal, chaired by Sir David Hopkin, said, after its four-hour hearing, that no fault lay with hotel or the promoters, Frank Warren and Katherine Morrison.

Murray, who collapsed in the ring, later died in hospital after losing the contest to Drew Docherty.

Riddick Bowe, the World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, has been offered $9 million (nearly £6 million) to meet Lennox Lewis, of Britain. If Bowe accepts, the bout will take place in March or April in Kenya, South Africa or Las Vegas.

Panos Eliades, Lewis's backer, who made the offer, said that he has spoken to Rock Newman, Bowe's manager. "The fight will be good for the sport and we are geared up for it," he said. "Kenya, South Africa and even Las Vegas all want the fight. It is the biggest fight out there."

Eliades added, however, that, after Lewis's display of power in stopping Tommy Morrison, Newman might hold out for more money, or turn down the contest.

Eliades is also trying to stop Frank Bruno meeting Mike Tyson before Lewis, and is contesting in a federal court in New Jersey the World Boxing Council's decision to give Tyson preference over Lewis.

THE TIMES

Free Penguin 60s Classics



The Times, in association with Penguin Books and Dillons and Ottakar's bookstores, offer readers up to six free books from the Penguin 60s Classics series, launched this month as part of Penguin's 60th birthday celebrations. The 60s Classics, some of which are abridged, some essays, and some complete works, follow on from the first successful series of Penguin's 60s paperbacks, also included in this offer, which flew straight to the top of the bestseller lists. This gives you a choice of up to 120 titles to choose from subject to availability at participating Dillons and Ottakar's stores. The launch of the new 60s Classics series, a full list appeared in *The Times* on Saturday, offers you some of world's greatest literature, and the original 60s series offers such titles as Edith Wharton's *Madame De Treymes*. To get a free book, present the voucher, below, at a participating Dillons or Ottakar's bookstore. More vouchers will appear this week. For your local participating Dillons bookstore, one of Britain's largest booksellers, call: 0121 7038114.

For your nearest Ottakar's bookstore, one of the newest and fastest-growing bookshop chains, call: 01722 780475.

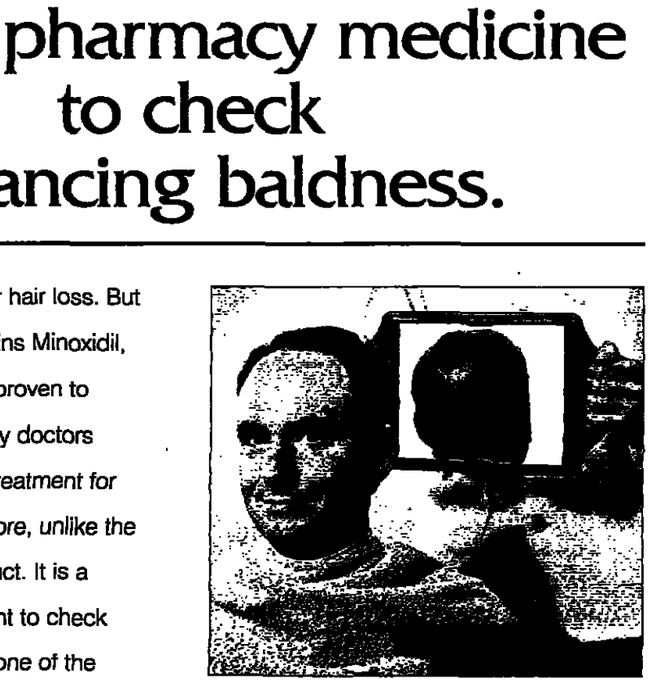
Readers can also buy two books for the price of one, including free postage and packing, choosing from a range of 10 best-selling hardbacks and 19 paperbacks. You can get up to three free hardbacks and three free paperbacks. Full details appeared in *The Times* on Saturday.

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SPORT

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30 1995

Wanderers pitch prompts England to consider picking four fast bowlers

Illingworth hints at full seam ahead

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG

RAYMOND Illingworth has been playing a lot of bridge on this tour and his card-player's cunning was given full rein yesterday. As officials of both sides stared with suspicion at the pitch for the second Test match with South Africa, that starts here this morning, the England manager was inscrutable about his intended strategy. He might do one thing, he might do another, and, if he had privately made up his mind, he was not letting on.

Officially, England will choose from the same 13 named before the rain-ruined first Test a fortnight ago, but, whereas manager and captain were in no doubt about the necessary balance for that match, there were hints of ambivalence yesterday and

Headley's burden 45
Warne fit 45

the suggestion of an all-seam attack was not thrown in entirely to confuse an opposition simultaneously retreating from just such a policy.

Illingworth likes nothing better than the pre-match mental jousting, the analysis of a pitch and the manoeuvring for psychological advantage. He is unarguably one-up after Centurion Park, where he interpreted the conditions and chose the required attack far better than the home side, but the abortive nature of that match means that the series effectively begins again today.

Of all the Test grounds in South Africa, the impressive Wanderers stadium, in the leafy Johannesburg suburb of Illovo, is alone in encouraging the thought that England might fare best without spin. This was plainly preying on Illingworth's mind yesterday, and although both he and Michael Atherton, the captain, stressed that they would be reluctant to take such a course, the odds against it have shrunk since the week began.

This is largely because of the appearance of the pitch. Chris Scott, the groundsman at the Wanderers for the past 26 years, has had to relocate from his intended strip, because of match schedules and the recent rains, and the surface yesterday remained well grassed and soft enough for studs to sink readily. Hansie Cronje and Bob Woolmer, the South Africa captain and coach, studied it at length, wearing pensive frowns not unconnected, one would guess, with their self-confessed misreading of the Centurion Park pitch.

South Africa, having played five seam bowlers there, are now likely to include Clive Eksteen, their slow left-armer, instead of the injured Brett Schultz and may replace Craig Matthews with Meyrick Pringle, who bowls out-swingers. England could be unchanged: alternatively, Richard Illingworth's spin could give way to Mark Ilott's swing or even, more speculatively, Devon Malcolm's speed.

Malcolm had been discounted after his latest uninspiring efforts at Bloemfontein and it seemed that the speculation over his role in the series was about to end — he did not have one.

A reprieve may come through the possibility of this pitch quickening in pace and deteriorating in bounce, though, even in such propitious conditions, selecting Malcolm involves gambling upon him locating the cut part of the square more often than of late.

Illingworth warned that the pitch would need to have dried out considerably by this morning for the Malcolm option to be further explored, and the violent thunderstorms that returned to Johannesburg late yesterday, bringing darkness soon after the cricketing tea-time, make that unlikely. Ilott, who would swing the ball in the breathy, confined atmosphere of the ground known as "The Bullring", is a more reliable choice.

England's intended net practice at Centurion Park was abandoned because of another storm yesterday morning and the interference of the weather here is a serious threat to a tour that badly needs a change of gear. "You keep building them up, then have to mess around doing nothing," Illingworth said. Atherton agreed, adding: "We just want to get on with the proper stuff. Our bowlers are fresh, which is something, and, psychologically, we at least know our batsmen can get runs against their attack."

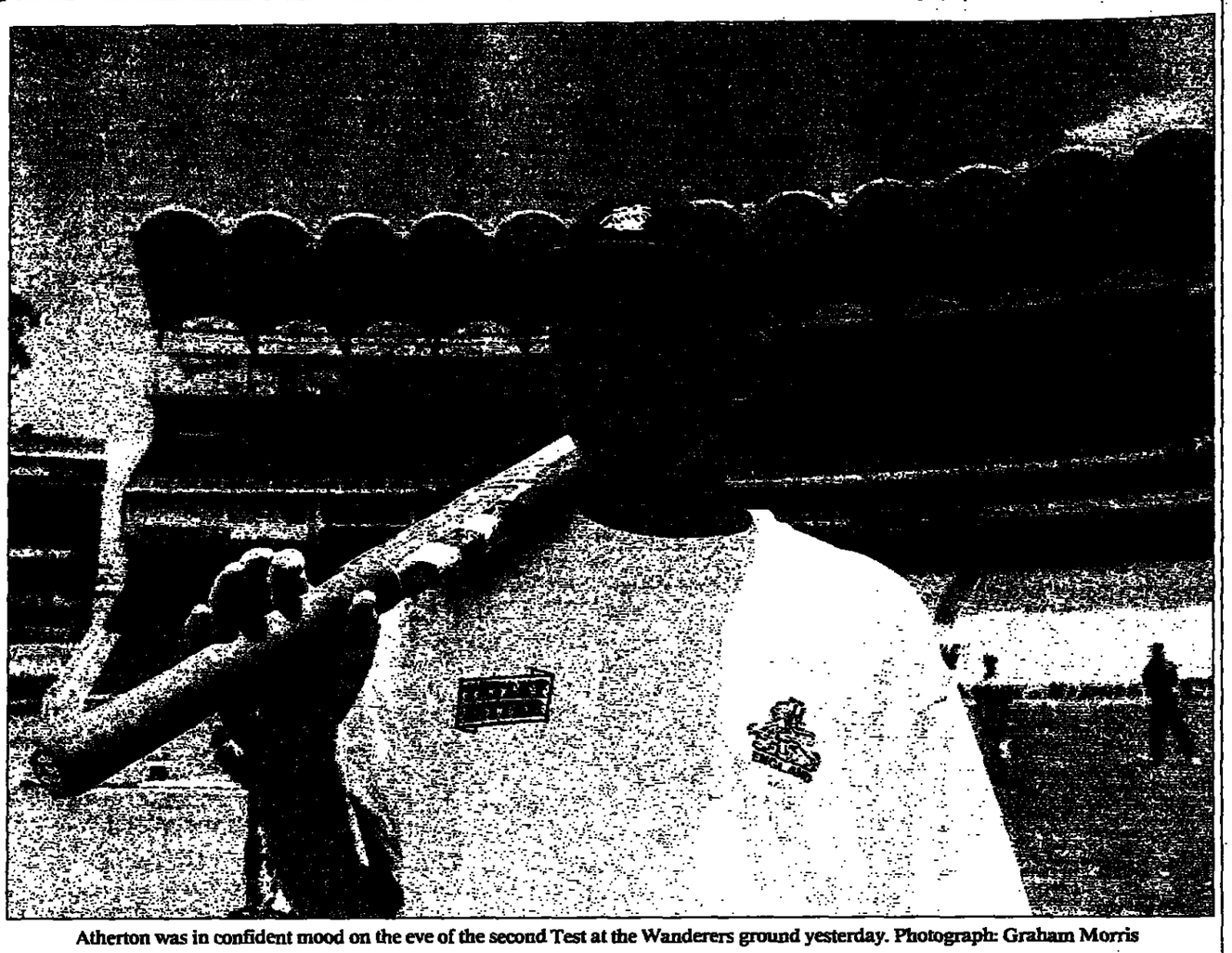
The batting, or rather two elements of it, however, continues to concern Illingworth. He is fretting about Mark Ramprakash, who has the worst Test record of any batsman on either side, and about Robin Smith, who has the best. Oddly, the greater anxiety seems to involve Smith, whose painful, runless 40 minutes in Bloemfontein at the weekend did nothing to dispel his manager's doubts. "It wasn't the most exciting nought, was it?" Illingworth said, chuckling in spite of himself.

"I am very worried, to be honest, not only by his lack of a big score but by the way he is playing; but we are backing the fact that he has done it all before, backing his temperament."

In the case of Ramprakash, England are trying to ignore his temperament, which is demonstrably flawed, in the hope that his rich talent will eventually overcome it. "He gets a little bit uptight," Illingworth said, "but we can't do any more for him. He has the chance and he must make it work himself."

Thirty-one winters ago, when England last toured this country, they had no such problems at No 3. Ted Dexter breezed in, a cricketer once more after a brief and unsuccessful diversion into politics, and made 172 at the Wanderers, his last Test century. England would give much for Ramprakash's first today.

Both Tests on the ground last winter were convincingly won by the side batting first, with the pitch deteriorating over the last two days. Atherton confirmed that he would seek to bat first, but the local bookmakers are sceptical. They make England 3-1 outsiders and rate the draw as favourite. They must have seen the weather forecast.



Atherton was in confident mood on the eve of the second Test at the Wanderers ground yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

WANDERERS DETAILS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): W J Cronje (captain), A C Hudson, G Kirsten, D J Cullinan, J N Rhodes, B M McMillan, D J Richardson, S M Pollock, C E Eksteen, A A Donald, M W Pringle, C R Matthews.

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton (captain), A J Stewart, M R Ramprakash, G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, R C Russell, D G Cork, D Gough, R K Illingworth, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm, M C Ilott.

Umpires: K E Liebenberg (South Africa) and D B Hair (Australia). TV replays: R A Noble (South Africa).

Match referee: C H Lloyd (West Indies).

JOHANNESBURG TESTS (three grounds): Played 23: England won 7, South Africa 8, drawn 8. Records (England first): Highest totals: 608 (1948-49), 420 (1922-23). Lowest totals: 145 (1898-99), 72 (1956-57). Highest individual innings: 195 C Washbrook (1948-49), 176 H W Taylor (1922-23). Best bowling: 9-28 G A Lohmann (1895-96), 9-113 H J Tayfield (1956-57).

Blackburn brawlers banned as Uefa sees new report

BY PETER BALL

BLACKBURN Rovers' hopes that they could put the unhappy events of last Wednesday behind them were dashed yesterday.

In a surprising volte-face, Uefa, the governing body of football in Europe, condemned the "grossly unsporting conduct" of Graeme Le Saux and David Batty during their mid-match brawl in Moscow and suspended the pair for two European games. Forty-eight hours earlier, it had said it was taking no action.

The Uefa statement said that the case had been "opened [sic] on the basis of new facts". Uefa had originally followed the referee's report, which had not deemed the incident worthy of action.

The change followed a submission contained in the Uefa observer's fair play report. The change of heart will come as some relief to the Football Association, which had initially asked Uefa to deal with the matter, and had been embarrassed by its initial refusal. The FA had then set its own disciplinary processes in motion, but these have now been halted.

The practical impact of the Uefa ban is small for Blackburn, at least in the immediate future. It means that the players will miss the last and, for Blackburn, meaningless game in the Champions' League next Wednesday, against Rosenborg, of Norway, and the club's next game in a European competition, whenever that might be.

It is, however, a moral blow, as the statement by Rob Coar, the club chairman, made clear. "The news comes as a bit of a shock to the club," Coar said.

"All the statements we had seen attributed to Uefa in the media said they were not going to take any further action, and that the club's internal action would stand.

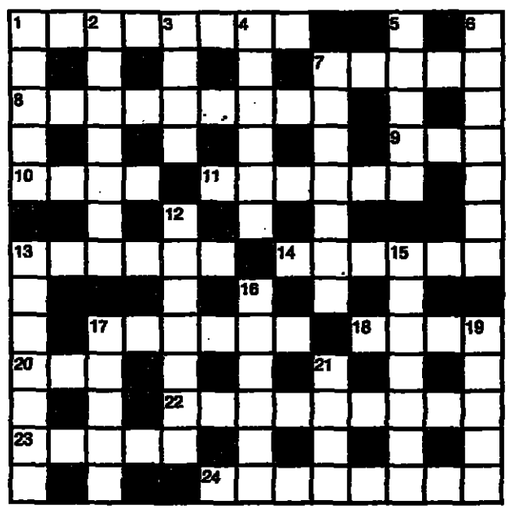
"Obviously, we are disappointed to find that these bans have been imposed, but it is something we shall have to accept."

The club had fined both players for the brawl, that erupted when they collided four minutes into the team's match with Spartak.

Colwyn's adventure, page 44
Charlton's squad, page 44

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 640 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Babbling; hesitating (8)
7 (Whistle) sounded; (fuse) burned out (5)
8 Tiny trace, spark (9)
9 Old French, new European currency (3)
10 Related, similar (4)
11 Secure personal cupboard (6)
13 Convincing (argument) (6)
14 Ship-mooring weight (6)
17 Light, late meal (6)
18 Complacent (4)
20 Bend from waist; weapon (3)
22 Candidate must satisfy them (9)
23 A goose; an oilfield (5)
24 Strong black coffee (8)

DOWN
1 OT prophet, book (5)
2 Branched pattern on eg leaf (7)
3 Price, speed; evaluate (4)
4 Lancs town; an Admiral (6)
5 Tall structure; to be very tall (5)
6 Narrow-minded (7)
7 Calling gruffly; mad (7)
12 Fragment (7)
13 Child prone to tears (3-4)
15 Small villages (7)
16 Propels push-bike (6)
17 To brush clean; wide expanse (5)
19 Enthusiasm (5)
21 A promenade; buttress (4)

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SOLUTION TO No 639
ACROSS: 1 Jape 3 Tribunal 8 Dull 9 Studious 11 Page-turner 14 Remove 15 Gibbon 17 Knockabout 20 Espousal 21 Nero 22 Pince-nez 23 Mews
DOWN: 1 Jodhpurs 2 Polygamy 4 Retire 5 Budgerigar 6 Noon 7 Lust 10 At a venture 12 Obsolete 13 Unctuous 16 Octave 18 Peep 19 Spin

Newlove eager to justify world record transfer fee

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

UNLIKE football, it has taken nearly four years for the inflationary spiral to catch up with a generally dormant transfer market in rugby league, which is why a world record £500,000 deal taking Paul Newlove from Bradford Bulls to St Helens yesterday is not being seen as the trigger for a mass sale of players.

The previous record was a straightforward cash deposit of £440,000 paid to Widnes by Wigan for Martin Offiah in January 1992. Beating it involved a cobbled four-man deal, with Newlove passing Sonny Nickle, Paul Loughlin and Bernard Dwyer in the opposite direction. The experienced trio formed the other half of a £250,000 down-payment to Bradford by St Helens for the Great Britain centre.

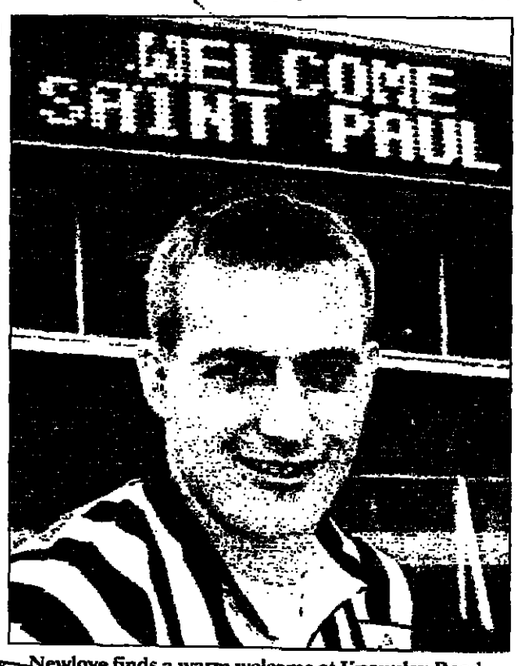
On signing a four-year contract at Knowsley Road, after an unsettling and, at times, bitter few weeks, during which he rejected an initial offer to join Wigan — "I didn't think I was their sort of player" — Newlove said that his first goal was to start paying back the fee in the Stones Championship home match, against Workington, on Sunday.

St Helens, significantly, did not use any of their Super League money to finance the Newlove transfer. Some of the early spending of the £87 million investment over five years in the British game has been to consolidate rather than speculate, in the form of more lucrative contracts by clubs to key players.

Bradford hope to sign another forward soon — a scrum half is an obvious priority — and the trickle of money into a dried-up transfer market will be as welcome as the rain now wetting local reservoirs. However, like football, more clubs are turning to cheaper overseas markets — South Pacific countries, especially.

Apart from Wigan's priceless collection, Newlove was the one player in the home market worth £500,000. His career try tally is 209 in 258 appearances. David Howes, the St Helens chief executive, said that Newlove's purchase showed that the club meant business in the Super League from next March, and a centre partnership with Scott Gibbs is an exciting prospect.

While bidding farewell to three of the club's most loyal servants — Loughlin, Nickle and Dwyer are likely to make their Bradford debuts tomorrow in the visit by Oldham — Eric Hughes welcomed arguably the world's best centre. "We're a top-four side, but this is about building towards future glory," the St Helens coach said.



Newlove finds a warm welcome at Knowsley Road, ... makes his debut for St Helens on Sunday

Sanderson rises to challenge

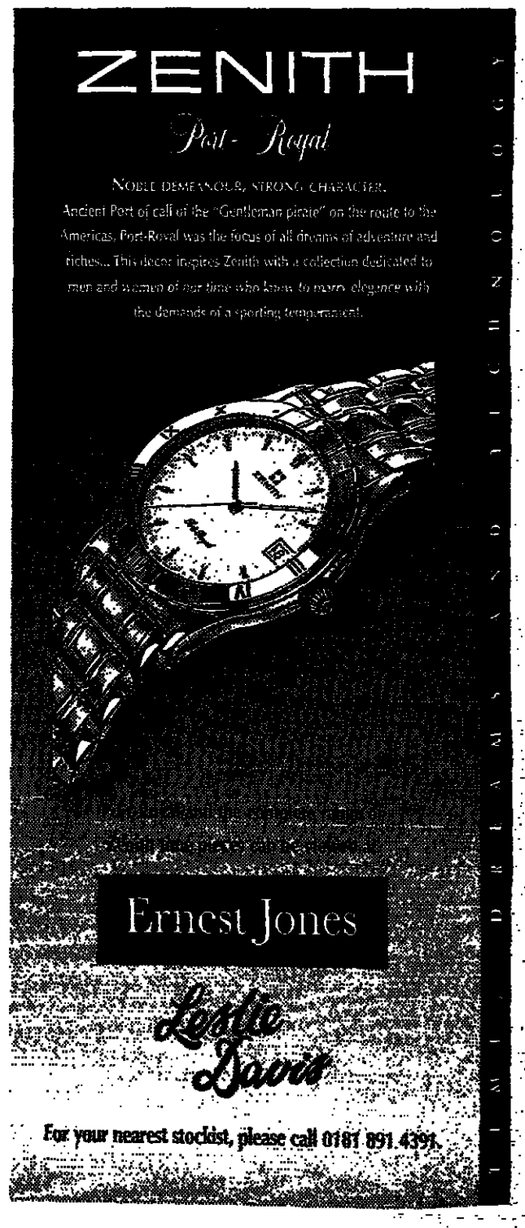
BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER four weeks as Cinderella's fairy godmother this Christmas, Tessa Sanderson will exchange her magic wand for an Olympic torch. Sanderson has come out of retirement in an attempt to become the first British woman to compete in six Olympic Games.

If successful, she would equal the record number of Olympic appearances by any track and field athlete worldwide. Only two British men, Bill Hoskyns (fencing) and Paul Radmilovic (swimming and water polo), have competed in six Olympics while the world record is eight, by three equestrian competitors.

The odds must be on Sanderson succeeding. Although she will be 40 come Atlanta next July, British women's javelin throwing is in a parlous state and, in all probability, she would need only to achieve the Olympic qualifying distance of 60 metres. That should not be beyond a woman who, three years ago, won a World Cup gold medal, finished fourth in the Olympics and exceeded 63 metres eight times.

Sanderson, the 1984 Olympic champion, has been inspired to return by a project to raise £1 million for the Children in Hospital charity. She was approached by Sir Anthony Tippet, the charity's chairman, to head a fund-raising initiative, and Sanderson agreed that the best way to publicise the appeal would be to try for another Olympics. "I could not resist the challenge because I know how much difference it will make," Sanderson said.





Morse returns, in feisty and flirtatious form



Matthew Bond

If I were the controller of the ITV Network Centre, I would have just three items on my "things to do" list this morning. One: offer John Thaw, Kevin Whately and Colin Dexter really big amounts of money to keep making **Inspector Morse** (ITV) — a year would be fine, two perfect.

Two: vow never again to schedule two crime thrillers, which virtually both boil down to child abuse, within 48 hours of each other. On Monday night *Cracker* pursued a murderer who killed because she had *not* been abused by her father. Rather more conventionally (not to mention credibly), the denouement of last night's *Inspector Morse* involved someone who had. Slip up in a similar fashion again, Mr Controller, and people might think you weren't reading the scripts.

Three brings us to item three: one to earnestly pray, that nobody should think the scheduling of the two dramas was deliberate, designed to reap maximum impact from recent events in the ghastly real world. That would be unforgivable. But let us be charitable, put it down, as Morse might, to unfortunate synchronism.

Inspector Morse was back — bigger and better than before and with its central character (Thaw) curiously more passionate. Not only did he shout at Sergeant Lewis (Whately) even more than usual but he was making amorous advances with the enthusiasm of an undergraduate, having apparently forgotten that it is writ in Cotswold stone that he is for ever unlucky in love. So it eventually proved but only after enough evidence to convince us that the old chap was on hormone replacement therapy. Under that crumpled exterior nestled a heart of warm flint — and a testosterone patch.

But Russell Lewis's adaptation of Dexter's novel needed no such stimulus. At feature film length, the pace was gentle, no doubt to the delight of those playing spot the college (Exeter doubling as Lonsdale), spot the author (I failed — Dexter, as is his Hitchcockian wont, was somewhere in the audience for the opening garden concert apparently) and spot whodunnit or rather, as it was by the blood-spattered end, spot whodunnthem.

But if the pace was gentle, the plot was positively labyrinthine. The mystery of Karen Anderson was eventually solved but only after Morse had guessed wrong three times and been taken off the case twice. As the final credits rolled with the part of "loose ends" unacknowledged, I briefly considered a charge of wasting viewers' time. But it would never stand up in court, it had all been far too enjoyable for that.

Thaw, Whately and James Grout, as Chief Superintendent Strange, were on top form. Whately, aided and abetted by the script, brought new and welcome edge to Morse's much put upon sidekick — Bob as he was to the splendidly loathsome Johnson (Malcolm Storry), Robbie as he is to Mrs Lewis and "Lewis!" as he will always be to Morse. Their long overdue clash of wills was spectacularly well played by both men.

Convincingly cast throughout (although from the start there was something suspiciously good-looking about the Michaels), Chris Fairbanks was first-class as the deeply sinister, and short-lived, George Daley. Vivienne Ritchie and Clare Holman were charming and crushing respectively as Morse's flirtatious but ill-fated dinner date and the feisty and feminist pathologist.

But what of the future? Morse was characteristically pessimistic over dinner, comparing himself to a dinosaur, the last of the serious detectives. "When I have outlived my usefulness, I shall be phased out." As far as ITV is concerned, that day has not yet dawned.

When it comes to travel, especially the long-haul variety — well, basically, I don't. I'm all for the television bringing places to me, as it did last night in **Cities of the Future: Shanghai a GoGo** (BBC2), which turned out to be in two parts — the first fascinating, the second a little less so.

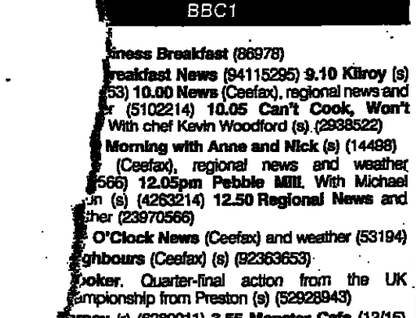
The first was a spectacular catching-up exercise in what is going on in that distant part of the world. Freed from the economic corsets of Peking, Shanghai is once again booming and is in the grip of the type of development activity that makes London's Docklands look like a weekend DIY project. Not much of the architecture of downtown PuDong would have met with the approval of the Prince of Wales but the scale of ambition was made enthusiastically clear by many of those participating and sharing in the new prosperity.

But inevitably, and in fairness probably unavoidably, we then slipped into what is being lost in the course of all this Western-style progress. In a city where the anthem of the moment is apparently *Go West* by the Pet Shop Boys, there were no prizes for guessing the casualties — low-rise, traditional housing (or slums as they are known until the day they are knocked down) and Chinese culture. Some thought the way forward lay with something called neo-Confucianism, others disagreed. I retired in neo-confusion.

As I do regularly from **The Real Holiday Show** (Channel 4), which continues to be one of the most unsettling programmes on television. For underneath the breezy, Gaby Roslin-enhanced exterior of home-made holiday videos there surely lurks a more sinister intent. Some would call juxtaposing the first camping holiday abroad enjoyed (or not) by a lorry driver and his family with the summertime adventurings of a bunch of Roedean schoolgirls let loose in Marbella balanced. Others might call it cruel. But neo-confused or not, it's all strangely watchable.

BBC1

...iness Breakfast** (86978)
...reakfast News (94115295) **9.10 Kilroy** (s) ...53) **10.00 News** (Ceefax), regional news and ...r (5102214) **10.05 Can't Cook, Won't** With chef Kevin Woodford (s) (2938522)
Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (14498) (Ceefax), regional news and weather ...566) **12.05pm Pebble Mill.** With Michael ...n (s) (4263214) **12.50 Regional News** and ...ther (23970566)
O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (53194)
...ghbours (Ceefax) (s) (92363653)
...ooker. Quarter-final action from the UK ...mpionship from Preston (s) (52928943)
...rney (r) (6280011) **3.55 Monster Cafe** (12/15) (5213479) **4.10 The Animals of Farthing ...od** (Ceefax) (s) (6727011) **4.35 Smart** (Ceefax) (1356653)
...wsround (Ceefax) (6385059)
...ker Grove (Ceefax) (5964160)
...ghbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (180382)
...x O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (951)
...ional news magazines (363) **WALES: 6.55** A ... Political Response to the Budget by Plaid ...u (925818)
...of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (7856)
...nders. (Ceefax) (s) (547)
...l Hospital. Rolf Harris explores the work of ...CA hospital. (Ceefax) (s) (3276)
...ities Empire: Shall We Dance? The leisure ...closes early to allow the staff to attend a Gala ... (Ceefax) (s) (5011) **WALES: 8.30** Wonder ... (5011)
...O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and ... (5479)
...get Response by the Liberal Democrat ...ry Spokesman, Malcolm Bruce (714585)

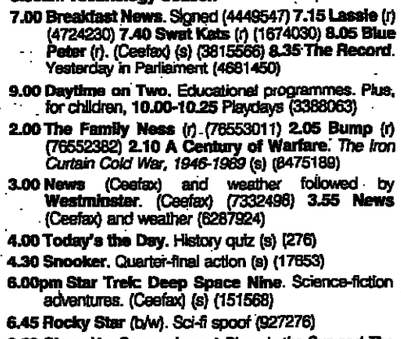


Brotherly love is put to the test (9.40pm)

9.40 Roughnecks. Village's inexperience with the crane results in a massive container being dropped on the deck (Ceefax) (s) (963837)
10.30 Redcaps. One of Our Tables is Missing. Series about the section of the British Army that polices its men — the Royal Military Police. (Ceefax) (s) (22301) **WALES: 10.30** The Slate (22301)
11.00 Question Time. Chairman David Dimbleby is joined by William Waldegrave, MP, Harriet Harman MP, Lord Jenkins and merchant banker Shriti Vadera (87363)
12.00 Snooker. David Vine with highlights of day six, the quarter-final stage, of the UK Championships (s) (81791) **WALES: 12.00** Redcaps (58826) **12.30** Snooker (64159) **1.30-2.05** Film: The Winds of Jarrah (2712333)
1.00am FILM: The Winds of Jarrah (1983) with Terry Donovan and Susan Lyons. Australian romantic drama, about a young Englishwoman who arrives in New South Wales in 1946 to become the governess to three children who are being brought up by their uncle. Directed by Mark Egerton (7238826)
2.20am Weather (8321159)

BBC2

6.00am Technology Season
7.00 Breakfast News. Signed (4449547) **7.15 Lassie** (r) (4724230) **7.40 Swat Kats** (r) (1674030) **8.05 Blue Peter** (r). (Ceefax) (s) (3815566) **8.35 The Record.** Yesterday in Parliament (4681450)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (3388063)
2.00 The Family Ness (r) (76553011) **2.05 Bump** (r) (76552382) **2.10 A Century of Warfare.** *The Iron Curtain Cold War, 1946-1989* (s) (8475189)
3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **Westminster.** (Ceefax) (7332498) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (6287924)
4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (s) (276)
4.30 Snooker. Quarter-final action (s) (17853)
6.00pm Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Science-fiction adventures. (Ceefax) (s) (151568)
6.45 Rocky Star (b/w). Sci-fi spoof (927276)
6.50 Close Up. Scenes from *A Place in the Sun* and *The Third Man* (854818)
7.00 Waiting for God (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5498)
7.30 First Sight. Legal campaigner Louise Christian reports on the lack of due care shown in inquests. **WALES: 7.30** Homeland; **EAST: 7.30** Matter of Fact; **MIDLANDS: 7.30** Midlands Report; **NORTH, NORTH-EAST, NORTH-WEST: 7.30** Close Up North; **SOUTH: 7.30** Southern Eye; **SOUTH-WEST** and **WEST: 7.30** Close Up (189)
8.00 Public Eye. (Ceefax) (s) (1818)
8.30 Top Gear. Includes Jeremy Clarkson test driving the Volvo 850R. (Ceefax) (s) (3653)
9.00 The Ghostbusters of East Finchley. Episode three of the six-part comedy drama. (Ceefax) (s) (6721)
9.30 The Young Ones (r). (Ceefax) (56856)
10.00 Doctors in the Dock: Conduct Unbecoming. (Ceefax) (s) (11295)
10.30 A Budget Response by Liberal Democrat Malcolm Bruce (s) (927585)
10.40 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (255740)



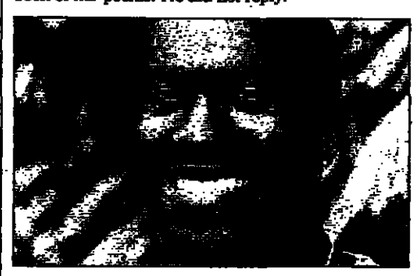
Prolific composer Ennio Morricone (11.25pm)

11.25 Ennio Morricone — Maestro of the Movies (s) (126924)
12.05am Midnight Hour. (s) (3368994)
12.35 The Learning Zone: Open University — Design for an Alien World (9396265) **1.00** Mapping the Milky Way (11420) **1.30** Jets and Black Holes (47333) **2.00 FETV Short Cuts:** Effective Communications (93178) **4.00 BBC Focus:** The Science Archive and Royal Institution Discourse (29371) **5.30** RCN Nursing Update (57197)

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Secret Lives: Marie Stopes
Channel 4, 9.00pm

A reappraisal of the pioneer of birth control bristles with paradox. She wrote her famous manual, *Married Love*, while still a virgin. She made married life happier for many other women but her own marriages were disastrous. Although promoting the institution of marriage, she took a series of lovers with her second husband's connivance. Her campaign for birth control helped women to avoid unwanted pregnancies. But Stopes had a darker motive. Convinced that the human species was degenerating, she advocated controlled breeding to eliminate the weaker strains in society. In this she echoed Hitler, to whom, a week before the Second World War broke out, she sent a book of her poems. He did not reply.



Can Allen Johnson beat Mr Perfect? (ITV, 7.30pm)

Peak Performance: Blink — and It's Gone
ITV, 7.30pm

Allen Johnson was little known outside his native United States when at Gothenburg this year he won the 110 metre hurdles at the athletics World Championships. Later he beat Colin Jackson of Britain, an absentee from Gothenburg, though he just failed to lower Jackson's world record time. In the first of a series about sportsmen pushing towards ever higher levels of achievement, we follow Johnson's attempts to get fitter and go faster. He uses science to do it, which makes the film somewhat technical, though slow motion photography helps to explain such concepts as "rotary running" and "explosive power". Finally, Johnson matches himself against Mr Perfect, a computer simulation of the ideal hurdler.

Doctors in the Dock: Conduct Unbecoming
BBC2, 10.00pm (Scotland, 9.30pm)

The colourful career of Dr Dick Richards came abruptly to a halt in 1983 when he was accused in California of plotting to murder his Harley Street partner. He spent two years in prison and on returning to Britain was struck off the medical register. The story is extraordinary even by the standards of this series. Richards worked as a sex therapist with a bogus doctor called Peter Stephan and is alleged to have paid one of Stephan's business partners to kill him. From Cyprus, Richards offers his version of events. He admits he behaved like an idiot. But he reckons he was a good doctor and he questions whether he should have been struck off for something which had nothing to do with his medical ability.

Ennio Morricone — Maestro of the Movies
BBC2, 11.25pm

"Film music you cannot hear", says Ennio Morricone, the Italian composer of hundreds of cinema scores, "is bad film music." Only the most insensitive of filmgoers could fail to register Morricone's work. He made his name with dynamic backings for the spaghetti westerns directed by his fellow-countryman and former schoolmate, Sergio Leone. On *A Fistful of Dollars* and its successors, their collaboration produced a potent mix of music and image. Morricone went on to work with Bernardo Bertolucci, Brian De Palma and John Boorman, all of whom offer their tributes. Another admirer, David Puttman, describes how he managed to persuade a reluctant Morricone to write the music for *The Mission*. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (9442653)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (9708837)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) (8633130)
10.00 This Time . . . the Place (s) (8325127)
10.35 This Morning with guest Julia Sawalha talking about her roles in *In The Bleak Midwinter* and *Faith in the Future* (72449189) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) (9196450)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (9136214)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (9111905) **1.25 Emmerdale** (r) (Teletext) (77446473) **1.55 A Country Practice** (s) (92368108)
2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (70517837) **2.50 The Lady Killers.** Women's health series (r) (s) (2078479)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8270295)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8279566)
3.30 The Riddlers (5298160) **3.40 Wizadora** (s) (6490721) **3.50 Astro Farm** (Teletext) (s) (5209276) **4.05 Garfield and Friends** (5468363) **4.15 Fantomcat** (s) (8711450)



Leslie Phillips meets Rex-the-dog (4.40pm)

4.40 Woof! (Teletext) (s) (2470450)
5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating. Tim Allen, the American comedian, talks about his new film, *Santa Clause*. (Teletext) (7308943)
5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (438566)
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers air their views (351924)
6.00 Home and Away. (r). (Teletext) (479)
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (289)
7.00 Emmerdale (Teletext) (2924)
7.30 Peak Performance: Blink and It's Gone. (Teletext) (s) (943)
8.00 The Bill: Three in a Row. Stamp and Keane try to prevent a joyrider being led astray by his elder brother. (Teletext) (1672)
8.30 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People. Amateur talent on parade (Teletext) (s) (7479)
9.00 FILM: Unlawful Entry (1991). Psychological drama about a middle-class couple who are burgled and the investigating officer, envious of the husband, falls for the wife. Starring Kurt Russell, Ray Liotta and Madeleine Stowe. Directed by Jonathan Kaplan. Continues at 10.50. (Teletext) (s) (2011)
10.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (52491)
10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (914011)
10.40 Budget 95 — The Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesman, Malcolm Bruce MP (297856)
10.50 FILM: Unlawful Entry continued (906837)
11.50 Big City (s) (813108)
12.25am FILM: Up the Front (1972). Frankie Howerd, Zsa Zsa Gabor, Bill Fraser, Dora Bryan, Hermione Baddeley and Stanley Holloway in the third of Howerd's *Up* farces, directed by Bob Kellett (264623)
2.00 Shift (6772523) **2.55 The Beat** (r) (s) (5271333) **3.50 The Album Show** (r) (s) (9167826) **4.45 Profile** (r) (s) (79629604) **5.00 Vanessa** (r) (Teletext) (s) (92807)
5.30 ITN Morning News (44623). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.30am Ulysses 31. Cartoon series (r) (74301)
7.00 The Big Breakfast. With Tristan Banks (90837)
9.00 The Golden Girls. Dorothy is in a love triangle (r). (Teletext) (s) (25498)
9.30 Schools: Middle English (423565) **9.45** The Maths Programme (7154769) **10.05** Scientific Eye (4669382) **10.25** Geographical Eye (3122479) **10.45** *Le Petit Monde de Pierre* (7286540) **11.00** Breaking the Mould (4950437) **11.20** Reviewing the Landscape (6159295) **11.40** Spanish (4556721)
12.00 House To House. Political magazine (33374)
12.30pm Sesame Street. The guest is Little Richard (98585) **1.30 The Wonderful Wizard Of Oz** (r) (s) (25951943) **1.55 Stage Door Magoo** and **Magoo's Three-Point Landing** (41089160)
2.10 FILM: Trottie True (1949). A sentimental comedy about a Gaiety Girl (Jean Kent) who marries into the aristocracy (James Donald). Directed by Brian Desmond Hurst (847924)
4.00 Think Tank. Team quiz. (Teletext) (s) (672)
4.30 Fifteen To One (Teletext) (s) (856)
5.00 Ricki Lake. A four-month diet. (Teletext) (s) (3495699) **5.45 Terrytoons** (435479)
6.00 Home Improvement: Aisle See You In My Dreams. American comedy series starring Tim Allen. (Teletext) (s) (721)
6.30 New Gamesmaster. Computer and video games magazine (301)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (275276)
7.50 The Slot. Viewers' video soapbox (233634)
8.00 Hands Up. Jon Snow talks to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Shephard. (Teletext) (s) (9214)
8.30 Sophie's Meat Course: Offal. Sophie Grigson, guided by Graham Portwine, a master butcher, prepares and cooks offal. (Teletext) (s) (8721)



The dark side of Dr Marie Stopes (9.00pm)

9.00 Secret Lives: Marie Stopes. (Teletext) (s) (4063)
10.00 FILM: A Child Too Many (1993) starring Michelle Greene and Connor O'Farrell. A made-for-television, fact-based drama about Patty Nowakowski, who agrees to become a surrogate mother for a childless couple. Directed by Jorge Montesi (647818)
11.50 Get Up, Stand Up. The last in the stand up and comedy sketch series. (Teletext) (s) (804450)
12.25am Fourmations: Secret Passions — Animation Since Perestroika. Garri Bardin is interviewed about his award-winning *The Grey Wolf and Little Red Riding Hood* (s) (3376913)
12.55 Dispatches (r). (Teletext) (7782807)
1.40 FILM: Simba (1955, b/w) starring Dirk Bogarde, Virginia McKenna and Donald Sinden. A drama, set in Kenya during the time of the Mau Mau uprising. Directed by Brian Desmond Hurst (753333)
3.30 Fourmations: And It Was Good. Serge Plamadeala's animation about St George being transformed from hero to dangerous beast (57045623). Ends at **3.40**
4.00-5.00 Schools: Making Sense of Science (68284)

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: **12.55** Emmerdale (9111905) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (77446473) **2.50-3.20** High Road (2078479) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (7308943) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (269) **11.50** Fist Tales (972295) **12.30am** Good Advice (3946772) **12.50** War and Remembrance (4208771) **2.15** Best of British Motorsport (77555) **2.45** The Best (5282449) **3.40** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (74834888) **4.05** Quiz Night (93650284) **4.35** ITV Sport Classics (54292130)

CENTRAL
As London except: **2.50-3.20** High Road (2078479) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (7308943) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (332740) **11.50** Tales from the Crypt (813108) **3.50am** Jobfinder (7008604) **5.20** Asian Eye (1332772)

GRANADA
As London except: **12.55-1.25** Shortland Street (9111905) **1.25** Home and Away (11654299) **1.50** Vanessa (25339721) **2.20** The Lady Killers (70517837) **2.50-3.20** Emmerdale (2078479) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (7308943) **6.25-7.00** Granada Tonight (332740) **11.50-12.25am** Coach (972295) **4.45-5.00** Jobfinder (79629604)

HTV WEST
As London except: **12.55** Shortland Street (7953721) **1.20** Coronation Street (76069932) **2.50-3.20** Gardening: Trees (2078479) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (7308943) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (269) **11.50** Special Report (813108) **4.45am** Jobfinder (79629604)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: **2.50-3.20** Designed by Emanuel (2078479) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (269) **7.30-8.00** Wales This Week (943) **11.50** Pack Padomlines (813108)

MERIDIAN
As London except: **12.55** Emmerdale (9111905) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (77448473) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (2078479) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (8279566) **5.10** Home and Away (7308943) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes - Crimestoppers (331160) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (479) **6.30-7.00** Anything You Can Do (269) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (914011) **11.50** Time Trax (208634) **12.50am** War and Remembrance (4208771) **2.15** Best of British Motorsport (77555) **2.45** The Best (5282449) **3.40** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (74834888) **4.05** Quiz Night (93650284) **4.35** ITV Sport Classics (54292130) **5.00** Firescreen (92807)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: **12.25-12.30** My Story (9111789) **12.55** Emmerdale (9111905) **1.25** Home and Away (77446473) **1.55-2.20** The Young Doctors (92368108) **2.50-3.20** A Country Practice (2078479) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News, Weather (8279566) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (7308943) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (48837) **10.30-10.40** Westcountry News, Weather (914011) **11.50** Short Story Cinema (813108) **4.45am** Jobfinder (79629604)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: **9.55-10.00** Calendar News and Weather (6833130) **12.20pm-12.30** Yorkshire: Calendar News and Weather / Biladale: Network North (9196450) **12.55** Emmerdale (9111905) **1.25-1.55** Home and Away (77446473) **2.50-3.20** Yorkshire: Calendar News and Weather / Biladale: Network North (8279566) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (7308943) **6.00** Calendar / Network North (610905) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (269) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (914011) **11.50** Priddoor Call Block H (922943) **12.45am** Film: Going Undercover (853791) **2.20** America's Top Ten (6957197) **2.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (74817791) **3.20** Film: Escape Route (5717246) **4.40** Jobfinder (7410536)

S4C
Starts: **7.00** The Big Breakfast (90837) **9.00** The Golden Glds: Mrs George (25498) **9.30** Schools: Middle English (4235565) **9.45** The Maths Programme (7154769) **10.05** Scientific Eye (4669382) **10.25** Geographical Eye (3122479) **10.45** *Le petit Monde de Pierre* (7286540) **11.00** Breaking The Mould (4950437) **11.20** Reviewing The Landscape (6159295) **11.40** The Spanish Programme (4556721) **12.00pm** Houses To House (33674) **12.30** The Pink Panther (81604127) **12.40** Asterisk Book Mysteries I (7972656) **1.00** Sbi, Mallwch'ch (939209) **1.30** Film: Sparrows Can't Sing (2031899) **3.10** Mirain Burchetsingur (5272853) **3.15** Bold Lake (1808901) **4.00** Think Tank (672) **4.30** The Real Holiday Show (956) **5.00** 5 Pump Used 5 (3089) **5.30** Fifteen to One (106) **6.00** Newyddion (930978) **6.15** Heno (957699) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (918295) **7.25** Bocbs hi O 'Me (615905) **8.00** Er Mwyn Ted: Cam Mawr Ymlaen (9214) **8.30** Newyddion (9721) **9.00** Arfe: Plentyn Cwdd (4083) **10.00** Film: Friends (2789) **12.00am** Without Walls: Unpeeled — The Roman Orgy (41536) **12.30** Without Walls: My Generation: The Yardbird (22913) **1.00** Home and Away from Home (1390488) **1.15** Foumations 1995 (61517) **1.45** Dwedd (90349894) **4.00** Schools (68284) **5.00** Diwedd

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE
7.00am The DJ Kat Show (12160) **8.00** Mighty Morphin (62943) **8.30** Jeopardy (51214) **9.00** Court TV (52566) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (45566) **10.30** Concentration (41450) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (42214) **12.00** Spellbound (65030) **12.30pm** Designing Women (98856) **1.00** The Waltons (86011) **2.00** Geraldo (86160) **3.00** Court TV (8905) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (90556656) **4.20** Undun (15861086) **5.00** Star Trek (4635) **6.00** Mighty Morphin (5769) **6.30** Spellbound (9721) **7.00** LAPD (1214) **7.30** M*A*S*H (5905) **8.00** Due South (30856) **9.00** The Commish (10092) **10.00** Star Trek (20479) **11.00** Law and Order (30479) **12.00** Late Show (8531975) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6866826) **1.30-2.00** Smouldering Lust (76420) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play (7481517)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (3379189) **10.30** ABC Nightline (49092) **1.30pm** CBS News (22127) **2.30** Parliament (60566) **3.30** Parliament (7127) (89634) **5.30** Tonight (94455) **8.30** Sky Worldwide (7011) **11.30** CBS News (83382) **12.30am** ABC News (23497) **1.30** Tonight (70555) **2.30** Newsmaker (30062) **3.30** Parliament (42807) **4.30** CBS News (96449)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (4855436) **10.00** Season of Change (1994) (98184030) **11.45** Man of La Mancha (1972) (23899276) **2.00pm** Return to Peyton Place (1961) (44058) **4.00** A Boy Named Charlie Brown (1969) (2180), **6.00** Season of Change (1994) (40307498) **7.40** US Top 10 (5316553) **8.00** The Beverly Hillbillies (1993) (29748) **10.00** Body Bags (1993) (5369393) **11.35** Fist of Justice (1993) (8590011) **1.15am** Chantilly Lace (1993) (9439994) **2.55** Payday (1972) (6855371) **4.35** A Boy Named Charlie Brown (1969) (6988178)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm The Roaring Twenties (1939) (8455) **6.00** Dames (1934) (99547) **8.00** All of Me (1984) (94092) **10.00** Rambo III (1988) (483672) **11.50-3.05am** Ryan's Daughter (1970) (92150882)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Tarzan and the Valley of Gold (1966) (40653) **8.00** Beauty and the Beast (1992) (43127) **9.00** Pinocchio (1993) (95943) **10.00** Majority Rule (1992) (90214) **12.00** Forever Young (1992) (98905) **2.00pm** Wild Stallion (1952) (1442108) **3.15** Big Wheels and Sailor (1970) (649568) **4.15** Where the Red Fern Grows (1991) (75559634) **6.00** Whose Child is This? The War for Baby Jessica (1993) (22837) **8.00** Forever Young (1992) (50884856) **9.45** The Movie Show (417537) **10.15** Murder Between Friends (1994) (261547) **11.55** Anthony's Desire (1989) (838853) **1.30am** Love Crimes (1992) (668488) **3.05** Secrets (1992) (530130) **4.40** Tarzan's Peril (1951) (9650178)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Umbrella Tree (32728479) **6.30** Muppets (27830498) **7.00** Winnie the Pooh (67543214) **7.30** Ducktales (67622721) **8.00** Chip 'n Dales (62632837) **8.30** Wonderland (82631108) **9.00** Fraggle Rock (82615160) **9.30** Pooh Corner (90056634) **10.00** Dumbo's Circus (27814450) **10.30** Quack Attack (82644672) **11.00** Disney (67648769) **12.00** Sinbad (82635924) **12.30pm** Tonkeloons (90052450) **1.00** Faerie Tale (90057805) **2.00** Wonderland (78584634) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (86478858) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (78583769) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (86473301) **4.00** Quack Attack (86469106) **4.30** Ducktales (86456892) **5.00** Chip 'n Dales (78588214) **5.30** Dangar Bay (86472872) **6.00** Tarzan (86479585) **6.30** Dinosaurs (86460837) **7.00** FILM: Alan and Naomi (67623450) **9.00-10.00** Entertainment

EUROSPORT
7.30am Equestrianism (33108) **8.30** Euroski (81653) **9.00** Skiing (32547) **10.30** Tennis (78189) **11.00** Boxing (80486) **12.00** Rally (13740) **1.00pm** Eurolun (84214) **1.30** Snowboarding (99996) **2.00** Triathlon (57872) **3.00** Olympos (6059) **3.30** Swimming (145011) **6.30** News (5547) **7.00** Superbike (78030) **8.00** Wrestling (54450) **9.00** Swimming (74214) **10.00** Boxing (77301) **11.00** Golf (61383) **12.00-12.30am** News (18246)

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Sports Centre (67547) **7.30** Racing News (79382) **8.00** Cricket (1827653) **4.00pm** Powerboats (2450) **4.30** ATP Tennis (8634) **8.00** Wrestling (4943) **6.00** Sports Centre (9127) **6.30** Rugby Union (1739) **7.00** Tight Lines (165188) **7.55** Sports Centre (430585) **8.00** Cricket (70486) **10.00** Sports (91030) **10.30** Tight Lines (53214) **11.30** Rugby Union (57059) **12.00** Nebusters



Identity crisis for Steve Martin, *All of Me* (Movies Gold, 8pm)

(87913) **1.00am** American Sports (82536) **2.00-2.30** Sports (91772)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am Rugby (9405818) **8.00** Nebusters (9414566) **9.00** Golf (7835189) **12.00-1.00pm** Rugby (4733439)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL
4.00am Living **5.00** Copeland **5.30** Kidz **6.45** Entertainment **6.15** Colin Dye **6.45-7.00** Music

SKY SOAP
7.00am Guiding Light (1036568) **7.55** As the World Turns (8376868) **8.50** Peyton Place (2259585) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (2854547) **10.10-11.00** Another World (1844818)

SKY TRAVEL
11.00am Globetrotter (2113276) **11.30** Ski Perfect (2114905) **12.00** Discover (5150479) **12.30pm** Franey (1181382) **1.00** Around the World (3883983) **1.30** Travel (1180653) **2.00** Ski (3655924) **3.30-4.00** Boomerang (8482059)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm Our Century (2137856) **5.00** History Alive: the Soviet Union (6889740) **6.00-7.00** Biography (1199301)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
1.00am Mysteries Magic and Miracles (1852081) **1.30** Ray Bradbury (9181178) **2.00-4.00** Film: Fear No Evil (2512081)

TLC
8.00am Wild (8859634) **8.30** Simply Delicious (2899295) **10.00** Vet's Life (4892450) **10.30** Park High (8855818) **11.00** Only Human (5246943) **12.00** General Practice (8879496) **12.30pm** Jimmy's (2693011) **1.00** Simply Delicious (5257059) **1.30** Wild (2882382) **2.00** Will It Hurt? (7089924) **2.30** Life Is for Living (6966214) **3.00** Animal Magnetism (7088059) **3.30-4.00** It's a Vet's Life (6978059)

UK GOLD
7.00am Angels (5227818) **7.30** Neighbours (5239853) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (8878769) **8.30** EastEnders (8880740) **9.00** Bill (8851082) **9.30** Sullivans (2891553) **10.00** All Creatures (5235837) **11.00** Dallas (5248301) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (8871856) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2802766) **1.00** EastEnders (5226199) **1.30** Bill (2894740) **2.00** Sullivans (88548382) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (8824106) **3.00** Angels (7057189) **3.30** Eldorado (6947186) **4.00** Casualty (19972905) **5.05** Larry Grayson (69057479) **5.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (10222995) **6.25** EastEnders (8069818) **7.00** Eldorado (7072498) **7.30** Taxi (8858837) **8.00** George and Mildred (7059818) **8.30** What a Carry On! (7080853) **9.00** Minder (4095059) **10.00** The Bill (6119478) **10.35** Classic Sport (5728382) **11.35** KYTV (6084740) **12.10am** Dr Who (2608062) **12.40** Film: He Knows You're Alone (3987130) **2.15-3.00** Shopping (9987449)

TCC
6.00am Swan's Crossing (73769) **6.30** Pugwall (83818) **7.00** Dagmosi (83180) **7.30** Ready or Not (18045) **8.00** Valley High (24382) **8.30** Casper (30481160) **8.45** Dingbatales (30769493) **9.00** Tiny (84547) **11.00** Sesame Street (11843) **12.00** Tiny (712672) **2.30pm** Happily Ever After (7156) **3.00** Sonic (2383) **3.30** Pink Panther (5943) **4.00** California Dreams (4450) **4.30-5.00** Valley High (7914)

NICKELODEON
6.00am Garbage (7141092) **6.15** Grimmy (7146547) **6.30** Turtles (45837) **7.00** Batfink (9587362) **7.05** age Turtles (1949295) **7.45** Rugrats (331818) **8.15** Doug (4284540) **8.45** Ferals (9804547) **9.00** Junior (9259059) **12.30pm** Monstars (14479) **1.00** Wishbone (57160) **1.30** Mighty Max (99950) **2.00** Speed Racer (9498) **2.30** Rude Dog (9740) **3.00** Duckula (6905) **3.30** Pet Shop (1585) **4.00** Fish and Chips (5932) **4.30** Rugrats (6276) **5.00** Clarissa (3450) **5.30** Nancy Drew (5176) **6.00** Doug (7769) **6.30** Are You Afraid? (1721) **7.00** Fish and Chips (3214) **7.30-8.00** Nancy Drew (7905)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Nature (8657566) **4.30** In the Wild (6946450) **5.00** Revolution (7062011) **6.00** Invention (8987943) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (8831382) **7.30** Space Rendezvous (8954479) **8.00** Weather (7049180) **8.30** Ultra Science (7068295) **9.00** Skydivers (6387180) **9.30** Science Detectives (2680547) **10.00** Survival (8870127) **10.30** Meyday Estonia (8856547) **11.00** Top Marques (8399905) **11.30-12.00** Special Forces (4698634)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Donovan's Brain (4808740) **2.00pm** Danger Man (4897605) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7075585) **3.30** Interpol (6865585) **4.00** FILM: Pure Hell of St Trinian's (7079301) **6.00** Scotland Yard (6981789) **6.30** UFO (8835106) **7.30** Protectors (6941905) **8.00** Space 1999 (4083983) **9.00** Prisoner (4080127) **10.00-2.00am** FILM: Dreamscape (6305586)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony (7042943) **7.00** Magazine (9019671) **8.00** Treatment (7878504) **9.30** Kate **10.00** Hearts (5281698) **10.40** Bride (26980059) **11.00** Young (8702479) **11.55** Masterchef (2861030) **12.30pm** Brookside (2248027) **1.05** Kilroy (6940924) **2.00** Agony (9104027) **3.00** Magazine (8618905) **4.00** Intoxication UK (4877450) **4.30** Crossways (6596127) **5.05** Joker's (76340479) **5.30** Bewitched (4897214) **6.00** Esther (4894127) **6.30** Brookside (5249586) **7.05** Springer (9482780) **8.00** Young and Restless (8167547) **9.00** Film: What Ever Happened To...? (55591924) **10.50** Entertainment (8670585) **11.00-12.00** Dangerous Women (9814027)

FAMILY CHAN